

THE
P E R S E I S;

O R,

SECRET MEMOIRS

F O R A

History of ^RP E R S I A.

Translated from the FRENCH.

Of this Treatise a foreign Writer thus expresses himself: 'Tho' the Author, by way of Precaution, 'lays his Scene in *Asia*, it is really in the Center 'of *Europe*, and exhibits a most agreeable View 'of the principal Events for 25 Years past.—His 'Style is free, his Characters bold, his Narration 'of Facts sincere and impartial; and he not only 'discovers the Springs and secret Intrigues which 'have occasioned the present Troubles, but draws 'to the life the Persons concerned in them.

D U B L I N:

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M D C C L X V.



SECRET MEMOIRS, &c.

THE reign of * *Sba Abbas I.* who justly *Lewis 14th* obtained the title of *Great*, is one of the most shining in the † *Persian* history. He died at a great age, leaving for successor a great-grandson, yet an infant, and unhappily the only remainder of a numerous family. *France* This young prince, called ‖ *Sba Sephi*, had by a *Lewis 15th* singular providence escap'd the sad fate of his father, brothers and uncles, whom death had hastily carry'd off, in the flower of their age. As he was of a weak constitution, he had been delicately educated by the women, till at seven years of age he was put into the hands of men. But by both, more care was taken to preserve his health than to instruct him in the art of governing, or in forming his mind; indeed as his life was the sole hope and support of that vast empire, these motives appeared sufficient to spare him the dry study of politicks, and the distaste that inseparably attends it.

Sba Abbas, before his death, had the precaution to settle by his will the manner in which he designed affairs should be managed during the minority of his grandson. By this regulation he entirely excluded from power his nephew § *Ali Homajou*, a prince of a superior genius, and possessed of all the qualities necessary to rule a great monarchy, and

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in

* *Lewis XIV.* † *French.* ‖ *Lewis XV.* § *Duke of Orleans.*

in his place committed the care of the government to prince * *Soliman*, a son he had by a favourite slave, whom he loved tenderly ; nor was this prince unworthy his father's confidence, being by his genius and knowledge no way inferior to *Ali Homajou*. Yet we may say that a blind parental fondness, joined to an old pique which *Sba Abbas*, on a slight cause, conceived against his nephew, had shut this monarch's eyes against the rights of nature and blood. Thus *Sba Abbas* thought to exert even after death that absolute power, which he had exercised without resistance living. Alas ! how men deceive themselves ! The same moment destroyed both him and his authority. His will was cancelled, and if the ambition of *Ali Homajou* had no share in this great event, the success of it may at least be ascribed to his profound policy and address. This piece of history is singular enough to merit the reader's attention.

The authority of the † *Sophies* is boundless : they have power of life and death over their subjects, and no princes on earth are so absolutely and so implicitly obeyed. But in case of minority, the last will of the deceased monarch must be confirmed by the princes and grandees of the empire, and by the ‖ *Divan-Beghi*, who is the chief justice, as well as by the rest of the members of that venerable body. For this purpose an assembly is held in presence of the young *Sophi*, in which the will

* *Duke de Maine.* † *Kings* ‖ *The Regent.*

will is audibly read, considered and examined, and by this council (which represents the nation) either authorised or annulled: such is the constitution of the state. *Ali Homajou*, who was no stranger to this, and who, as first prince of the blood, held the foremost rank in this illustrious council, was not idle. Either by himself, or by his favourites he sounded the chief lords, and the most considerable of the court; promises, threats, presents, persuasions were all employed to gain some, and intimidate others. Every thing conspired to answer his wishes, and the day of meeting was to *Ali Homajou*, a day of triumph. As he was a great master of eloquence, he made a florid speech on the right which his birth gave him to the regency; a right which he proved, the deceased *Sopbi* could not alienate to his prejudice; after which artfully and slightly passing over his personal merit, he left it to the assembly to decide between him and his competitor. All the suffrages united in his favour, the will of **Sba Abbas* was set aside, and *Ali Homajou* unanimously declared regent of the kingdom, and guardian to the young *Sba Sepbi*.

This act of policy and power united was followed by regulations, councils and promotions, in which the creatures of *Ali Homajou*, and such as did not oppose him, had the best share, and prince *Soliman* with his adherents and favourers were banished. It was certin-

ly a happiness for the kingdom that things took this turn, for by it all motives of jealousy and dissention, (evils always dangerous in a minority) were removed. The people submitted the more readily, as they saw the power in the hands of a prince whose right to it, and capacity to govern well, were universally acknowledged.

The first care of *Ali Homajou* was to examine into the state of the finances, which he found in terrible disorder. *Sha Abbas* by his long wars had exhausted his treasury, and contracted immense debts with the * *Armenians*, both natives and foreigners, who had advanced him considerable sums for the support of his numerous armies. There was a necessity of clearing these demands, and the kingdom was by no means in a condition to answer them. The provincial governors, who in the late reign had been accustomed from time to time to send the king large presents, especially in † roupes of gold, were no longer able to furnish their contingents. The lands lay waste and uncultivated, commerce was at a stand, and public credit quite sunk; in a word, the kingdom seemed in a most dangerous crisis. However, as the state enjoyed profound peace, *Ali Homajou* flattered himself that in a few years he should be able to re-establish the finances, which, without dispute, merit the chief care of a sovereign. But as this disorder in the funds had commu-

nicated

* *Jews, Merchants and Bankers*, † *Lewis D'Ors*.

nicated itself to other branches of the administration, the regent found himself extremely perplexed. He spent great part of his time in forming schemes, which required a capacity and patience like his own, to conceive and execute. He left part of public affairs, especially particular details, to an eunuch called * *Rustan*, who for some years had the superintendence of his † *Harem*; a man of an obscure birth, of a middle size, who had a disagreeable and mean look, and a forbidding manner; without religion, or any merit, but a skill in intrigue, by which he knew daily how to procure women of all ranks for his master's pleasures. This employ, (which the difficulty of finding all the youth, charms and wit, which this prince required in a mistress, together with his extream fickleness, made no easy task,) had acquired *Rustan* such a confidence and authority with his lord, that he often took the liberty to refuse, with the greatest haughtiness, and most indecent language, such favours or places as the prince had granted. An excess of goodness rendered *Ali Homajou* blind to the impertinent conduct of a slave, whom, no doubt, he despised, but *Rustan* by his uncommon talent for procuring pleasure had made himself necessary to his master who raised him, more through compliance than judgment, to posts which rendered him contemptible, the more eminent they were.

Rica

* *The Abbé afterwards Cardinal du Bois.* † *Convent.*

* *Rica* and † *Hassein*, (of whom we shall speak more hereafter) had each their several departments.

The war-office was under the direction of § *Ibben*, a man whose capacity was no way equal to so extensive an employment, and who had been raised to this post by the influence of the women. He was otherwise well-beloved, being good-natur'd, generous, and of an obliging disposition. His predecessor in this post was || *Akabar*, who had justly obtain'd a high reputation, and was daily regretted on account of his merit, experience, and affability to the soldiery, whom he studied to serve, and yet more for his misfortunes. *Ali Homajou* had caus'd him to be arrested, as guilty of some mismanagements; but notwithstanding a long and severe imprisonment, and a design to ruin him, plainly discover'd by the zeal with which his process was carried on, and that of his pretended accomplices, they could find no reason to punish him but by exile, and even in that sentence his judges were tax'd with too great partiality for his enemies.

The administration of justice was committed to † *Ibrahim*, a man of the greatest learning in *Persia*, and who had a long time held the post of ¶ *Deroga* with high reputation. His merit alone had raised him to the charge of *Divan-Begbi*, which he held with the office of *Keeper of the Sophi's Great Seal*, An uncommon example, and the more glo-

* *Count Maurepas*. † *M. St. Florentine*. § *M. de Rieux Breteuil*. || *M. le Blanc*. † *M. D'Agneſſeau*. ¶ *Advo. Gen.*

rious for **Ibrahim*, as his advancement was generally applauded! What might not the publick hope from a magistrate who began so well, whose genius was masterly, whose integrity uncorrupted, whose zeal for the publick welfare was ardent, and who to the profoundest knowledge in the laws joined the greatest experience in the administration of justice? His first conduct gave the people the highest expectations of him. At the time when all things yielded to *Ali Homajou*, it was astonishing to see *Ibrahim* alone, tho' he owed his elevation to the prince, oppose his commands with unmoveable firmness in whatever he thought prejudicial to the publick good. Banishment was the consequence of this opposition; a banishment infinitely honourable to him! Too happy and too great, if he had known how to bear his disgrace! But either too soon disgusted with obscurity, or moved on the one hand by the flattering hopes given him by the court, and on the other by the desire of raising his family, he was gained over, and sacrificed to frivolous motives the glory he had so dearly purchased. He was re-established only in his place of **Chief Justice*; but either enfeebled by age or his own reflections, he was, in the sequel, a man little regarded, weak, irresolute, wholly taken up in formalities and punctilios, determining no affair, through too scrupulous an examination, and as much dis-

esteem-

esteemed as he had been admired. He seemed wholly governed by his *Son*, whose hazardous projects, and violent counsels exposed his father to embroil the royal authority, and dignity of his place with the *members* of justice of the second order, who believing the court could not support itself without them, had presumed to oppose their *head* with a mistaken obstinacy, to which at last they fell themselves the *victims*.

Ibrahim's places had on his disgrace been given to * *Daracha*, a man of birth, genius and capacity, but otherwise rough and intractable; qualities which suited well with his withered, black complexion, and a forbidding physiognomy, but which were not natural to him, for he was naturally gay and polite. He had a long time been † *Grand Cadi*; a post which required a solemn and grave appearance, and he had so accustomed himself to it, that he could not well throw it off.

When *Ibrahim*, after his recall, was restored to his post of § *Deroga*, *Ali Homajou* thought proper to continue *Daracha* in the office of *Keeper* of the *Sopbi's Great Seal*, a place both of confidence and profit, which *Ibrahim* did not see himself deprived of, without chagrin. But the regent willing to show the ¶ *Divan-Begbi* the danger of displeasing the great, intended this mutilation of his post as a continuation of *Ibrahim's* punishment which

* *M. D'Argenson, Lieut. de Police.* † *Lieut de Police.*
 -§ *Chancellor.* ¶ *President of the Council.*

which he had time enough to think on, for the *Great Seal* was not restored to him again till sixteen years after the death of *Ali Homajou*.

Daracha, who died a little before this prince, was succeeded by **Fazel*, the grandson of a merchant who had enriched himself by trade. *Fazel* was a man consummate in the knowledge of all the branches of the revenue, and whatever related to the finances, but of too narrow a genius to make a minister of state. He was always of the opinion which he thought would please, and only regarded on the account of his son †*Abdalla*, who was first secretary of state, and a very ingenious man, beloved by the nation, honoured by foreigners, befriended by *Ali Homajou*, one who filled his post with distinction, and was both a great politician, and a worthy man. Under the administration of the †*Albematdoulet Ismael-Beg* (whom we shall have occasion to mention hereafter) the custody of the *Sopbi's* seal being taken from *Fazel*, his son §*Abdoul*, whose merit and credit supported him, was so touched at the disgrace, that he had the weakness to resign his secretaryship. From that moment both the father and son sunk into universal oblivion (an accident common at courts) and were reduced to an obscurity, the more painful, as they had seen themselves before courted and adored. This threw them into a mutual melancholy, which quickly brought them to the grave

The
* *M. D'Armennoville.* † *Prime Minister Cardinal Fleury.* § *M. de Maroville.*

The reader may perhaps accuse us for not exactly following the order of time and affairs, but we judged it proper for his convenience to give at one view all that relates to the same person, or that is connected with the same fact, in order to avoid repetitions, and the confusion which attends the interrupting the narration of events. Such is the method we have laid down in this work ; if the reader thinks it wrong, we ask his pardon.

Ali Homajou set apart the mornings for audiences and business, and assigned the rest of the day to his pleasures, which were often protracted deep in the night. Then shut up in his *Harem* with the most beautiful women, and some lords whom he admitted to his confidence, he paid himself in luxury and debauchery for the fatigues of state. As I have no design to represent him but as a statesman, I shall forbear to touch his private life, or to describe those famous entertainments, wherein pleasures of all kinds, even such as make nature blush, succeeded in their turn : This province more properly belongs to those who shall attempt the history of his life.

Tho' *Ali Homajou* was thus indulgent to his pleasures, he was not the less attentive in what related to government, nor less active in giving his orders, and having them duly executed. Being informed that a secret conspiracy

racy

racy was hatching in one of the northern provinces, he succeeded so far as to discover that it was fomented by some powerful lords, gained by the emissaries of the emperor of * *China*, who had promised to support them. Immediately, under pretence of changing the garrisons thro' the kingdom, *Ali Homajou* caused several bodies of troops to enter this province, headed by officers he could confide in, and had the conspirators seized; but as he was not cruel, he contented himself with putting a few of the chiefs to death. By this conduct he wisely prevented the rebellion of one province, which would infallibly have been imitated by several others. A rare instance of clemency in a prince offended, and vested with a power to punish; and at the same time a useful lesson to princes, that in revolts it is not so much the number, as the quality of the persons punished, that reduces the people to their duty, or restrains those whose fidelity is wavering, and that the guilty should be seized by proper methods, and executed with decency and expedition.

This cloud dispelled, and tranquility restored, *Ali Homajou* resolved to revenge himself on the *Chinese* monarch, by carrying the war into his country. But as it would have been imprudent to have declared himself, till he had secured his frontiers against such neighbouring princes, as might take advantage of this

this war, and the king's minority, to invade the kingdom, he concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with the * *Great Mogul*, the monarch of † *Japan*, and the sovereigns of the isle of § *Ceylon*. Scarcely was this treaty, which was kept secret, signed, when *Ali Homajou* threw off the mask, and caused a considerable army to enter *China*. The emperor surprized, and justly fearing his enemy, yielded to necessity, and made propositions of accommodation. A treaty was entered into, and a peace at last concluded, by means of a triple marriage of the *Cbinese* princess with the young *Cba Sepbi*, and two daughters of *Ali Homajou* to the two eldest sons of the *Cbinese* monarch. *Ali Homajou* the more readily hearkened to an accommodation, as he had no real intention of a war with *China*, but only designed to disturb that prince, and by giving him work at home prevent his intermeddling with the affairs of *Persia*. Thus ended this war as soon almost as it began.

To accomplish the conditions of this treaty, the three princesses were exchanged on the frontiers at the same time. But of these three matches only one took place, the two others being delayed on account of the age of the parties, and afterwards, for reasons of state, wholly laid aside.

It was near about this time, that there arrived at || *Ispahan* a ¶ *Japonese*, a man of a projecting head, whom the desire of making his

* *Emperor of Germany*. † *England*. § *Holland*. || *Paris*.
¶ *Mr. Law, a Scotchman, Projector of the Mississippi Scheme*

his fortune had conducted to the courts of different princes, whom he had not been able to engage in his schemes. He found means to be introduced to *Ali Homajou*, who was not difficult of access; and as he knew perfectly well the bad state of the finances in *Persia*, and the regent's trouble on that score, he laid before him a project, by which he pretended, in a short time, not only to clear off the debts of *Sba Abbas*, but to enrich the kingdom, and render it more flourishing and powerful than ever. A scheme, so flattering in theory, pleased *Ali Homajou*, who gave the projector orders without delay to put it in execution. One cannot easily avoid being astonished that so wise and clear-sighted a prince should give himself blindfold into a project, of which it is impossible to suppose he did not see the folly; and one cannot but think, either that he had views unworthy his birth and character, or (what is more likely) that he believed the present disorder of affairs could only be remedied by a greater. In effect, in 18 months, the fortunes of private people were confounded, and the kingdom brought to the verge of ruin.

This project, among other things, consisted in substituting, in place of gold and silver roupies, with which *Persia* abounded, certain * small bitter almonds, which served for small money in the neighbouring countries, and making these preferable to the real specie

* *Mississippi Bonds.*

specie, by laying the publick under a kind of voluntary necessity of receiving them, by giving them an imaginary value beyond the current coin. Thus it was proposed to re-establish credit, by getting all the cash in the nation into the hands of the king, who was thus as it were to be the treasurer general of the people. A singular method of reviving public faith, of which future times will hardly furnish a second example.

We shall not enter further into this affair, nor into the most part of those events which happened during the 7 years and some months in which *Ali Homajou* held the reigns of government, the memoirs of the time having sufficiently related them. As we only intend to write of things not well known, or at least not yet made public, or which we cannot well omit, we shall mention a fact relating to prince **Giafer*, to whom *Ali Homajou* paid a visit, in the fortress of † *Ispahan*, where he had been for some years a close prisoner. This visit had probably no other motive than to be satisfied of the existence of a person, believed dead of the plague for near 38 years, and whose funeral rites were celebrated in the presence of all the army. To set this matter in its true light, we must go as far back as the reign of *Sba Abbas the Great*.

This prince, who was excessively amorous, had several favourite mistresses. Amongst these

* *The Duke of Vermandois.*

† *Paris.*

these was an * *Indian* slave, without beauty, but tall and well shaped, and whose wit and fine sense made more than amends for the deficiency of her personal graces. Her heart was full of that tender delicacy, which is the greatest charm in love, and perhaps the principal merit a woman can possess. *Sba Abbas* loved her to distraction, and by her had a son called *Giafer*, whom he caused to be educated with all imaginable care. He was handsome, well made, and full of vivacity, but haughty and passionate, and could not bear to pay † *Sepbi Mirza*, the only acknowledged son and heir of *Sba Abbas*, the respect due to a prince born to be his king. These two young princes, near the same age, were of very opposite characters. *Sepbi Mirza*, possessed of the same personal advantages as *Giafer*, greatly excelled him by his mildness, his affability, and a heart full of goodness and generosity. These qualities, as estimable as uncommon in a prince born to hereditary power, rendered *Sepbi Mirza*, the object of *Giafer's* contempt, who missed no occasion of expressing his concern for the *Persian* nation, destined one day to obey a prince without spirit, and unworthy to rule. *Sba Abbas* was informed of the behaviour of *Giafer*, and saw how blameable it was; but authority yielded to parental affection; this monarch, however absolute, had not the power to correct his son. At last *Giafer* one day so far

* *Madam de la Valiere.*

† *The Dauphin.*

forgot himself as to give prince *Sepbi Mirza* a blow. The king was presently acquainted with it, and trembled for the criminal. Whatever inclination he had to dissemble this affront, the dignity of the crown, and the noise this action made at court, got the better of his tenderness. He assembled, not without some reluctance, his favourite ministers, to whom he disclosed his concern, and demanded their advice. In proportion to the enormity of the crime, and according to the maxims of state, they all judged it merited death. However, one of the council, more sensible of the king's affliction than the rest, said, there was a way to punish *Giafer*, without taking his life. He proposed, the king should send him immediately to the army, then on the frontiers towards **Feldrans* ; that soon after his arrival there, it should be given out, he had the plague, in order to prevent any persons from coming near him ; that after a few days pretended illness, it should be reported he was dead ; and that while, in the sight of the army, his funeral ceremonies were performed in a manner worthy of his birth, he should be by night secretly conducted to the citadel of † *Ormus*, where he should be imprisoned for life. This advice was approved by all, especially by the afflicted *Sba Abbas*.

Prudent and faithful persons were intrusted with the conduct of this affair. *Giafer* set

* Flanders.

† The Castle of Vincennes. out

out for the army with a splendid equipage: The rest of the scheme was executed as laid down; and while the camp bewailed the imagined death of this unhappy prince, he was conducted thro' by-ways to the citadel of *Ormus*, and put into the hands of the governor, who had before-hand received orders from the king to suffer his prisoner to be seen by no person whatever.

The prince was allowed one single domestic, who was in the secret; but he *dying* on the road, the guard disfigured his face with their sabres, to prevent his being known, and leaving him stripped for the same reason, continued their journey.

The governor of the citadel of *Ormus* received and treated his prisoner with the greatest respect. He served him in person, receiving the dishes or whatever, he wanted, at the door of his apartment from the hands of the servants, so that the prince remained invisible to all about him. *Giafer* bethought himself one day of graving his name on the back of a plate with the point of his knife. A slave, who remarked the plate, brought it to the governor, hoping for a reward; but the wretch was deceived, and killed on the spot, that the secret might die with him. A fruitless cruelty! since it is more than probable, by the facts we have related, that the secret was ill kept. A common misfortune attending the great, who being obliged to intrust their

their private affairs to many, are always exposed to have them betrayed either by indiscretion or interest, and as often out of hatred and ingratitude.

Giafer remained for some years in the citadel of *Ormus*. At last *Sha Abbas*, having raised the governor of that place to the command of the fortress of **Ispahan*, it was thought proper to transfer with him his illustrious prisoner, as it would have been imprudent to have put him into the hands of a new governor, perhaps less vigilant and faithful.

Both at *Ormus* and *Ispahan*, whenever on account of sickness, or any other occasion, they were obliged to let *Giafer* be seen, he was constrained to wear a mask. Several persons worthy of credit affirm they have seen him thus, and that he treated the governor in a contemptuous manner, who, on the contrary, showed him the utmost respect.

If it be queried why *Giafer*, having so long outlived both *Sha Abbas* and *Sephi Mirza*, was not enlarged, as seemed to be reasonable; it must be considered, it was impossible to restore to his rank, dignity or estate, a prince whose tomb existed, and of whose obsequies so many then living were witnesses, as well as proofs in writing; so that it would have been scarce possible to undeceive the people, who to this hour believe he died of the plague in the camp of *Feldrans*.

Ali Homajou died soon after his visit to
Giafer

* *The Bastille.*

Giafer, and in the same year *Sba Sephi* was declared at age. His death was so sudden, it gave occasion to suspect it was not natural. He was succeeded in the direction of affairs by * *Mirza Haddi*, a prince of the blood royal, greatly inferiour to him in capacity, but equally given up to debauchery. Under this *Athemadoulet* the women had great influence, but after three years and a half this regent was banished by the intrigues of a † *Mehter*, called § *Selim*, his declared enemy. This *Mehter* was a singular man, of a whimsical turn of mind, unsociable, and affecting a philosophic austerity, and great zeal for the public good. But, in reality, he was suspicious, fond of being consulted in affairs of state, and even of being made a party in every little cabal, and an enemy of all those in places, who denied him their confidence. Otherwise he was a man of sense and learning, favoured and protected the sciences, and was both curious and skilful in that part of mathematics which relates to mechanics. To ruin *Mirza Haddi* he made use of a || *Molla*, who had been tutor to *Sba Sephi*, and had a great ascendant over his pupil. We shall have occasion to mention this *Molla* in the sequel.

During the short regency of *Myrza Haddi* there passed nothing remarkable, but the sending back the princess of *China*, and the marriage of *Sba Sephi* thereupon with the daughter-

* *The Duke of Bourbon.* † *A Nobleman.* § *The Duke of Villeroi.* || *A Clergyman, afterwards Cardinal Fleury.*

daughter of * *Cbekour*, a fugitive king of *Tibet*, who for some years had taken shelter in a province of *Persia*, to which we may add the opportunity which the regent lost of placing the crown on the head of one of his sisters. The reader will not be displeased to know how this affair came to miscarry.

After the dismissal of the princess of *China*, the business was to find a wife for *Sba Sepbi*. † *Roxana*, mother to *Mirza Haddi*, a princess who had made a great figure in the reign of *Sba Abbas*, and whose spirit equalled her ambition, imagined, that as her son was at the head of affairs, it might be possible to raise one of her daughters to share the throne of *Persia*. She opened the matter to her son, whom she found disposed to enter into her views, but who declined to appear in the affair, as unwilling, if it miscarried, to bear the odium of a rash and unsuccessful project, which yet he thought might be easily executed from the excessive fondness of a mother for her daughter, a passion very natural, and from her ambition, another passion equally prevalent in the hearts of the fair sex. He therefore left the conduct of this important negotiation wholly to the princess his mother, who fixed on one of her daughters, called § *Sabeh*, a princess of exquisite beauty, then about twenty-two, tall, finely shaped, and possessed of wit and knowledge uncommon to the *Persian* ladies,

* *Stanislaus*, King of Poland. even

† *Dutchess Dowager of Bourbon*. § *Madem de Sens*.

even of the highest quality. She was a lady of great goodness, of a mild and amiable character, and endued with a greatness and constancy of soul, and in short every way worthy the rank intended her. She had from her infancy lived retired in a * *Harem*, which she would never quit, not even to take the air in the country. Surrounded by her women, who loved and respected her, she led a solitary but tranquil life. In this retirement she was visited by her mother, attended by two ladies of lost reputation, whom it may not be amiss to describe.

The first called † *Fatima*, tho' not much advanced in years, had lost that extraordinary beauty with which she began the world, but was, however, still very handsome. She had a fair complexion with large languishing eyes, in which love seemed to have fixed his throne, a fine mouth, a nose perfectly shaped, and an admirable face, which was only exceeded by her neck and arms. Her stature would have appeared above the common size, if she had been more slender. Her whole person disclosed an air of pleasure (to say no more) which pointed out her character. Her soul was indeed the slave of her senses, she had a false heart, and but a moderate understanding; she spoke thick and slowly, had a seducing accent, and was perfectly skilled in the ways of a court. Tho' she was married to a *Persian* nobleman, she shared the good

* *Convent.* † *Madam de Nelse.* graces

graces of *Mirza Haddi* with * *Zulima*, the lady we shall next describe,

Zulima, the wife of another lord, was a *Brunette*, tall, and well shaped; she was indeed not so beautiful as *Fatima*, but more lively and pleasing, as having more wit. Her character was equally contemptible, tho' she had less levity, but the same violent inclination to pleasure, little regarding how she was esteemed, provided she received the homage of the men, whose services she expected should be real and frequent.

These two ladies lived in a perfectly good understanding together, and only shewed an emulation in the art of inventing new pleasures, and in the glory of knowing how to make them relished; equally void of all modesty, they had no merit but the skill they possessed in an eminent degree of artfully conducting the senses to the greatest excesses that luxury and lasciviousness could imagine or invent. One could not forbear feeling an inclination for them, at the same time one blushes for a weakness, which delicacy condemned.

Such were the persons whom the mother of *Mirza Haddi* chose for her attendants! —an inexcusable error, by which she lost all the fruit of her journey, and blasted the hopes her ambition had entertained!

Sabeb was no way dazzled with her mother's proposals; the throne which was re-
pre-

* *Mademoiselle de Prié.*

presented to her, as so easy of access, displeased instead of alluring her. A crown, presented by such infamous ambassadresses, became an object of contempt. Sensible of her mother's affection, she expressed her gratitude for it; but at the same time could not forbear telling her, even in the presence of *Fatima* and *Zulima*, " That she was far from
 " thinking a proposal could be serious, for
 " which it had been thought proper to employ the two most despised and despicable
 " women at court. That accustomed from
 " her infancy to retirement, she had learned
 " to regard grandeur with indifference, and
 " that she now renounced it for ever." The princess her mother in vain used all her power to bring her to sentiments more agreeable to her views, so that, enraged at her ill success, she was forced to depart as she came. A rare and wonderful example of constancy, and noble indifference, in a princess beautiful and young, and who knew herself worthy the title she rejected.

Thus * *Mirza Haddi*, by too great a confidence in his mother's address, or a mistaken prudence on his own side, missed the opportunity of raising his family to the pinnacle of power and greatness, and of screening himself from the blow his enemies were preparing against him, who would have humbled themselves at his feet, if they had once seen him brother in law to the *Sophi*. The daughter

ter of *Chekour* took advantage of *Sabeb's* refusal, and married *Sba Sephi*.

* *Ismael Beg* succeeded *Mirza Haddi* in the place of *Athemadoulet*, who was the very *Molla* we have mentioned as the instrument of his disgrace.

Before we enter on the new scene which the theatre of the *Persian* court offords, it is proper to characterize the principal actors, beginning with the *Sopbi* himself, whose person and character we have not yet described.

Sba Sephi when between 16 and 17 was handsome, and of an advantageous size. His leg was remarkably well shaped, his air noble, his eyes large, his look rather gracious than forbidding, brown eye-brows, and a tender constitution, which time, however, fortified by degrees, so that he became at length able to sustain the greatest fatigues. His education having been neglected, his mind was little cultivated; his disposition was mild and timid, and he had such an invincible aversion to business, that he hated to hear the very mention of it. Hunting was his usual employment; he spoke seldom, unless with his familiar favourites, and out of the sight of his courtiers. In his youth he seemed indifferent as to women, or the entertainments of the table, both which he has since been very fond of; willing to be obeyed, rather from the sense of his own rank and dignity, than from a natural disposition; his physio-

* *Cardinal Fleury*.

gnomy

gnomy wanting that commanding air, which distinguishes men born for sovereignty. Very different from *Sba Abbas* his predecessor, he was neither fond of magnificence, nor of those occasions of pomp, in which the majesty of a prince is seen. He neither rewarded nor favoured the sciences, nor encouraged men of learning, or such as excel in the arts. He could however talk well on many subjects, and was thoroughly versed both in the history of his own kingdom, and that of the other * *Asiatic* regions. He was greatly attached to his religion, and at least as zealous as any of his predecessors for the sect of † *Hali*. In a word, he was a good king, and a good master, capable of friendship, of which he knew how to give proper marks. He was rather of a pacific than martial disposition, rather weak than great, little affected with heroic glory, indolent, hating and fearful of business, not over liberal, nor wanting sense, but seeing all things thro' the eye of the *Albematdoulet*, *Ismael Beg*, on whom he too much depended. In short, he was a prince void of that spirit, which should distinguish kings, and mark all their actions.

The || *Sultana* was older than *Sba Sepbi*, her stature and beauty were both of the middle sort, her look and air no way majestick, her temper was gentle and amiable; she was good-natur'd and sincere, and had prudence enough to meddle with nothing, and to enter

C 2

into

*European Nations. † The Jesuits. || Queen of Lewis XV.

into no intrigues of the court. She was a woman of virtue and good sense, and tho' too often left alone, had the talent not to take notice of the disregard and neglect shown her. By these qualities, and being dependant on a prime minister, who governed even the *Sopbi* her husband, one may judge she had little or no credit at court.

The first person of the state, after *Sha Sepbi* and his children, was * *Jesseing*, son to *Ali Homajou*, a prince in the flower of his age, living in retirement, appearing seldom at court, and taking little share in publick affairs, devout to excess, affecting the appearance of it in all his actions, being governed successively by different † *Imans*, regulating his zeal by theirs, and being often the dupe of their cunning. He was, otherwise, beneficent and good, signalizing every day of his life by charities sometimes misplaced, positive in his sentiments, willing to be thought a profound politician, tho' but slightly acquainted with the theory of government; as to the rest, he was a virtuous prince, and full of good dispositions,

Mirza Haddi, whom we have already mentioned, was tall, lean, and had an ungraceful appearance, and his temper was rough and savage. He was a virtuoso, and fond of things rare and precious; yet he possessed a fine wife, whom he seemed not to value as she merited, seeking abroad for pleasures he

* *Clergymen.* † *Duke of Orleans.*

was

was past the age to taste. He lived splendidly, and since his recal from exile seldom visited the court.

He had two brothers. The one, named prince * *Orcan*, had been extremely wild in his youth ; his pleasures consisted in the most extravagant debauchery, heightened with cruelty. A prince well made and endowed with a fine genius, whose age and returning reason have made, in some measure, amends for his past follies.

The other brother, called † *Miram*, was comely, but inclining to fat, of no great capacity, but profuse in his expences, sparing no cost to procure women for his *Harem*, yet inconstant in his amours, being neither to be fixed by beauty nor merit, and ready to sacrifice his fortune to gratify his taste for variety in pleasure.

‖ *Marat-Bache*, sister's son to *Mirza Haddi*, was in his younger years a prince of great beauty, and well made, possessed of a good share of sense, and of an agreeable character; nor did he, as he grew in years, deceive the hope conceived of him. He was brave, and fond of arms, lively, and jealous of his honour ; but too extravagant, a vice which greatly embarrassed his affairs.

Amongst the princes who made a figure at court were two brothers, natural sons to *Sba Abbas*, by a favourite slave ; the eldest, who has been already mentioned, was called

C 3

Soliman

* The Duke of Charolois. † The Count of Clermont. ‖ The Prince of Conti.

* *Soliman*. He had a shining genius, great vivacity and dignity of mind, joined with probity and a capacity for government ; but all these fine qualities were tarnished by an unhappy inclination to avarice.

The youngest, prince † *Sevagi*, was beautiful, well shaped, generous, mild and humane. He was not so brisk as *Soliman* ; but he had a solid and nice judgment, and was unblemished in his manners. He was generally esteemed and beloved, even by his own family, tho' he treated it coldly. Under the regency of *Ali-Homajou* he had some share in public affairs, in which he acquitted himself with credit. But a too great purity of sentiments, and too great an attention to examine things, make it probable he would not have succeeded as a prime minister, and that affairs would have languished thro' too scrupulous an indetermination ; in a word, he was thought to be too honest a man to be a good statesman. We shall have occasion to speak more of this prince in the sequel.

Ismael Beg was at least seventy three years old, when *Sba Sephi* raised him to the post of *Athematdoulet*. He was born in a southern province of *Persia*, of obscure if not of mean parentage, and being early design'd for the priesthood, was instructed in all the sciences, proper to qualify him for that order, which he took young. But an innate ambition made him, with a kind of despair,

see

* The Duke of Maine. † The Count of Toulouse.

see himself condemned to pass his life in a remote province, and led his inclinations violently to the court. For this end, he tryed all methods, and at last succeeded so far as to arrive at the center of his wishes, furnished with good recommendations, which his youth and agreeable appearance rendered effectual. The young *Iman* behaved on this new stage of life with a noble boldness, and was consequently soon taken notice of. He was presently made a * *Moullab*, and some years after, by dint of intrigue, obtain'd the dignity of *Scheik el Selam* † in a province, from which post he was called to court by order of *Sha Abbas*, to be preceptor to the prince *Sha Sephi*, over whom he gained an ascendant, which he kept all his life. At his greatest elevation, he seemed no way surprised at the immense distance between it and his birth. He had always imagined himself born for the greatest dignities, in which notion he was confirmed by the astrologers, in whose predictions he had great confidence; a weakness epidemical in the *Persian* nation.

Notwithstanding his advanced age, *Ismael Beg*, when he took the helm of affairs, was a personable man; he had a fresh complexion, lively eyes, a piercing look, high forehead, good nose, and fine mouth. His stature was

C 4

above

* Curate or Rector of a Parish. † A dignity which confers the right of deciding in matters of religion, like a bishop.

above the middle size, strait and genteel ; he had a handsome leg, a firm walk, and noble deportment. As to his mind, to a fine wit he joined a boundless ambition, skilled beyond the wisest courtier in the arts of a court, knowing perfectly how to temporise, and make his own advantage of it. His external appearance was modest, attended with an air of candour and sincerity, very proper to deceive the credulous. He spoke well, and understood how to make the most indifferent conversations serve his own views. He caress'd the great, was polite to the world, and extremely complaisant to the ladies, to please whom it was suspected he had some extraordinary talents, which not a little contributed to his Advancement. He was naturally voluptuous, but artfully temperate and sober ; a formidable enemy, but a cold friend ; deceitful not only by office but reflection, and ready to repay the most signal services with the blackest ingratitude. His knowledge was extensive, but he wanted spirit sufficient to govern a vast empire ; always irresolute, and consequently too slow in the dispatch of public affairs, equally ignorant how to make war or peace to advantage, apt to conceive nothing at first view, parsimonious of his sovereign's revenues beyond all conception, yet weak enough to purchase with large sums the friendship of the neighbouring princes ; sacrificing matters of importance to trifles,

well

well inclined to serve the public, but ignorant of the means; jealous of his authority, which he stretched too far; a bigotted partisan of the sect of * *Hali*, and a declared enemy to that of † *Omar*; not easily prejudiced but once so, difficult to be undeceived; ready to censure without proof, and an encourager of informers and spies. He paid little regard to the recommendations of the princes and grantees, and granted no favours without tedious solicitations; yet so timorous, that he durst not refuse such as importuned him boldly. Too short-sighted to distinguish or reward merit, and while he imagined he knew how to chuse and employ men, he was eternally the dupe of those he trusted. He was not enough skilled in the knowledge of either domestic or foreign affairs, and of so peaceable a temper, that he had not courage enough to resent the enterprizes of neighbouring powers, of which he rather chose to feign an ignorance, than to take satisfaction by honourable means, and such as were proper to make the crown of *Persia* respected. As to the rest, he was a faithful minister to his prince, impenetrably secret, and neither using his favour or place to enrich himself, having along time resisted the vanity of raising his own family, tho' blameable, on the other hand, that when he yielded to this weakness, he conferred on his relations honours too great for their birth

* The Jesuits. † The Jansenists.

Such was the man whom *Sba Sepbi* chose to set at the helm of public affairs. The kingdom presently assumed a new face: the poverty to which it had been reduced by the fatal * stroke of *Ali Homajou*, the distrust and faction which had increased during the administration of *Mirza Haddi*, the dearth of corn, and the misery and diseases consequent on a famine, the ill state of the coin, and the disorder which seemed to affect the whole political body, all these evils disappeared. Public credit revived both at home and abroad, commerce flourished again, order and peace were restored, and *Persia*, which some months before resembled a ruined country, was in a short space of time more happy than ever. Had only this change marked the administration of *Ismael Beg*, it had gained him immortal honour, and intitled him to those statues the ancient *Romans* consecrated to the restorers and preservers of their state. But while he thus procured the general good of the nation, he laid himself open to the reproach of having ruined a great number of families, by the suppression of certain annuities granted to particulars for life on the public funds. These should have been the rather inviolate, as the public necessity, more than any confidence in the government, had in the regency of *Ali Homajou* induced these people to put their fortunes in the king's hands, at a low interest. This

* The Mississippi Scheme.

act rendered *Ismael Beg* odious to the whole kingdom. It was thought a flagrant piece of injustice, that the *Sophi* should in one day seize, in an arbitrary manner, what a few years would have legally given him, on the death of the annuitants. And what aggravated the oppression was, that the king received little advantage by it, tho' the persons concerned were inevitably undone,

Ismael Beg perceived the mischief he had done himself in exasperating the people, and to recover public esteem, he thought fit to disgrace * *Mahamet*, who had the direction of the finances. He flattered himself, that by this step, the *Persians* would look on this minister, as the author of the evil they complained of. He found himself deceived, for tho' *Mahomet* was known to be a rigid man, and ready to seize any opportunity to enlarge the royal authority and revenue, yet he passed for a man of judgment. He had great experience and capacity, was well acquainted with the state of the kingdom, and could justly balance the interest of the crown with that of the people. Far from being supposed the contriver of so mischievous a project, it was known he had vigorously opposed it. On this account his disgrace was generally pity'd, and *Ismael Beg* remained the object of the public hatred; but *Mahomet* did not long survive his dismissal.

His post was given to † *Rbedi*, a man of mean birth, having spent part of his life in

* M. Pellitier de Forts. † Mr. Orrie. the

the body of *Goulams* *, where he commanded a troop of fifty horse. † *Rbedi*, when *Ismael Beg* first promoted him, was advanced in years. He was a very big man, of a rough physiognomy, a stern eye, and thick eye-brows. His voice was hoarse, his behaviour rude, and his accent extremely coarse. He was taxed with being so fond of money, that even his nearest relations were forced to bribe him. By means of his post, he had solidly established his own fortune, and that of his family. He was conceited and positive, ill acquainted with business, almost always refusing and seldom granting favours, both without knowing why. Attach'd to the interest of the crown, so far as to have no mercy for the people, forgetting that by oppressing these beyond measure he impoverished the king. He knew not how to encourage commerce either by privileges or indulgence, and maintained himself in his post only by his excessive rigour, and his care to have always large sums ready (a kind of merit valued often more than it deserves, and in which he excelled) to pay his court to *Ismael Beg*, by a pretended regard to his taste for oeconomy. He retarded the necessary payments, and clipped the bills of the contractors, and other public undertakers, without enquiry or examination.

* This body of troops is composed of slaves, or the children of slaves. They are generally *Georgians* by nation, and hold the second rank in the *Persian* cavalry.

† M. Orrie.

mination. As to the rest he was a man of sense, having during his being in office acquired the experience he wanted, and having on several emergent occasions given good advice with regard to hazardous projects, the success of which depended on the measures taken beforehand, in which the event shewed his judgment was good.

In the mean time the empire enjoy'd a profound tranquility ; but *Ismael Beg*, not without some appearance of reason, doubted the calm could not last long. The jealousy of certain powers, always enemies to *Persia*, their contempt, perhaps, for the administration of a man, whose order, and way of life seemed inconsistent with his charge, several treaties at that time set on foot, and the preparations of war making in the adjacent countries, seemed all to portend an approaching rupture, which *Ismael Beg* saw must inevitably involve *Persia*, considering its situation, and the influence it had in the affairs of *Asia*. This minister therefore renewed the ancient alliances, formed new ones, and put the empire in a condition of defence. The army was increased, all the officers had orders to get ready their equipages, and to repair immediately to their respective posts ; the generals were named who were to command, and the frontier towns and garisons provided for all events.

A war seemed at the point of breaking out,
and

and the armies of *Persia* were ready on every side to take the field, when all parties seemed to incline to an accommodation. Thus the vast preparations of *Ismael Beg* served to no purpose, unless to intimidate the enemies of *Persia*, and inspire them with more circumspection and awe. All the neighbouring princes disarmed, and sent their ambassadors to * *Schiras*, a town of *Persia*, appointed by *Ismael Beg* for their congress, to decide the disputes of their masters, and restore the peace of *Asia*. Thus they submitted as it were to treat, under the inspection of the *Athematdoulet*, and take the bias he pleased to give them.

Persia at this conjuncture acquired great glory and reputation ; but the best part of it was due to † *Cosfran*, whom *Ismael Beg*, who designed him as his successor in the ministry, had raised to the post of first secretary of state, and keeper of the *Sopbi's* great seal, void by the disgrace of § *Fazel*, and the resignation of his son || *Abdoul*, whose characters have been already given.

Cosfran was of a family eminent in the law, in which he had with high distinction borne several of the principal offices. He was a consummate politician, and endued with a superior but formidable genius. To an exquisitely discerning judgment he join'd an affable and polite behaviour. His company was delightful, and his conversati-

* Soissons. † M. Chauvelin.

§ M. D'Armenonville.

|| M. De Morville.

tion enchanting. He was intimate with the first lords at court, with whom he lived without cringing; he was much in favour with the ladies, and very assiduous to make powerful friends, whose credit might support him in case of disgrace. He very well knew how to distinguish his enemies, and could the more surely disconcert their projects, as he thoroughly understood all the artifices and intrigues of the court. His views were extensive, his projects vast, and his intelligence almost universal. He was secret without affectation, sacrificing to business even his hours of repose, and consequently expeditious, tho' placed in a multiplicity of affairs, he dispatched them with ease; a lover of men of merit, and zealous to protect and encourage the arts and sciences; beloved and honoured by foreigners, who never left him but at once satisfied and charmed; respected by all the *Asiatick* princes; never refusing, but what he could not grant, and always with great politeness, and testimonies of affection; every way superior to *Ismael Beg*, whose confidence he enjoyed, yet chagrined to be second in the ministry from a sense of his own superiority. In a word, *Cosrou* was a man of merit.

Excepting the finances, and the care of domestic commerce, which were assigned to *Rbedi*, the publick affairs were divided among three men, who were accountable to
Cosrou,

Cofrou, who was himself accountable to *Ismael Beg*.

The first, whose province was the Marine, and foreign trade, was called * *Rica*. He had a long spare visage, large forehead, full blue eyes; a mild look, long nose, and his mouth was middle sized, his chin sharp, and his head somewhat flat. His aspect was thoughtful, his complexion pale, his air delicate, his stature tall and thin, and his leg slender, his gate noble and majestic; he was lively, ambitious, born with great wit, and master of his native tongue, which he spoke with great eloquence. He was capable of transacting business with ease, but indolent, a defect owing to his taste for luxury and good living, to which he sacrificed whole nights, so that the necessity of repose often intruded on the business of the day. He had in the reign of *Sba Abbas* entered young into the office he possessed, in which the practice of several years had given him full experience, but of which he did not make all the use he ought or might have done. He loved men of letters, and the arts; he had gained friends, whom he knew how to keep, but he opened himself only to a few of his own taste for pleasure, with whom, and often in company of gay ladies, he had nightly entertainments, in which the delicacies of the table, and the exquisite wines served, were less valued, than the wit, gallantry, refined humour and free-

* *The Count de Maurepas.*

dom which heightened the conversation, and those scenes of pleasure, which were peculiar to the place. *Rica* was beloved by all the sea-officers and sailors, whose interest he warmly espoused on all occasions; he was in great favour with the *Sopbi*, and not less esteemed by *Ismael Beg*, to whom he was accused of paying his court with too much servility. A weakness, which the care of his fortune, and the honourable and profitable posts he enjoyed, might in some measure excuse.

The second was * *Osman*, whom *Ismael Beg* had called from the government of a frontier province, to set at the head of the war-office; a man very unequal to the post, which he discharged, chiefly, by the assistance of wiser heads, of whose knowledge he reaped the credit. A severe man, ill beloved by the soldiery, whom he took no care to protect, and worn out, rather with fast living, than age or business.

The third, called † *Hassein*, had under his direction all matters relating to the religion of the § *Gaures*, and the disposal of all places both in the law and the church. He was a little fat man, without ambition, of slender capacity, and more taken up with pleasure and the ladies, than business or affairs of state. *Ismael Beg* found him in the post, and left him in it, judging, perhaps, it required a man of no great abilities.

* *M. D'Angervilliers.*
§ *The Reformed.*

† *M. de S. Florintin.*

If we consider the statesmen we have described, and compare their respective genius, talents, characters, virtues and defects, we shall conceive no very favourable idea of the *Persian* government. It is on the contrary, matter of wonder how this empire, tho' rich, powerful, and full of brave, industrious and loyal subjects, could support itself. *Cosron* was the only person in the administration, who could be said to possess all the qualifications of an accomplished minister. But if the jealousy of his brethren could not succeed so far as to reject the advantageous projects he formed, their incapacity, indolence, or ill-will generally made them miscarry as to the execution. Thus the state might be said to govern itself (to use the expression) by a certain spirit of order and regularity it had long contracted, or rather the sovereign disposer of monarchies protected that of *Persia*, and by his divine providence watched over its preservation.

How much is the fate of kings to be lamented! Their grandeur, their glory, the welfare of their people, depend on their choice of ministers; and yet this choice is scarce ever founded on their knowledge of men, as the reward of merit, but generally the effect of favour or chance. Hence the ruin of the most solidly established empires, a ruin always more or less speedy in proportion to the number of weak or wicked
men

men in power, and the time they continue so. An important and useful lesson, which the history of all ages furnishes to princes, and which cannot be too often repeated !

Let us now leave *Persia* a while, to take notice of an event which surprized all *Asia*. * *Koturi*, prince of *Jesova*, who had within ten years past joined to his dominions the kingdom of † *Necbal*, weary of commanding subjects who were as tired of obedience, determined at once to quit the throne in favour of his son § *Korsula*, then about thirty years old. He only reserved to himself a handsome revenue, and a castle, to which he retired with a favourite || *mistress*, and a small number of domestics. His abdication was scarce believed by many, till they were informed that *Korsula* was in peaceful possession of the sovereign authority. Among the different motives, which were believed to influence *Koturi* to this step, the most probable is, that this prince, who was advanced in years, apprehensive that his subjects were as dissatisfied with him, as attached to his son, (whom he regarded as an obstacle to his designs) and would refuse to acknowledge for their queen the slave before mentioned, with whom, blinded by his passion, he had resolved to share his throne, chose, rather than to expose his authority, or be disappointed in an affair he had at heart, to retire, and enjoy a quiet and agreeable tranquillity, with this beloved mistress, whom,

* *Victor Amadeus Duke of Savoy.* † *Sardinia.* it

§ *The present King of Sardinia.* || *Madam de St. Sebastian.*

it is reported, he married. But excited by the insinuating representations of this ambitious woman, who had an absolute sway over him, he presently repented the step which he had taken in resigning the crown. He only sought a plausible pretext to resume it, and means sufficient to secure him from failing in the attempt. The means he founded in the great number of male-contentments, which his son had made by displacing, without regard to his father's recommendation, the ministers and chief lords in the government; and it was thought a sufficient pretext for his design, that the conduct of the present administration seemed a censure on his own. It was suggested to him, that the folly and weakness of the new king would bring the kingdom, which he left so opulent and flourishing, to destruction, by putting it into the hands of ministers, which the preceding government, so justly celebrated, had always thought proper to keep out of the administration; persons, indeed, justly suspected of pursuing their own interests at the expence of the public, since they only studied to exclude from authority such whose great experience, and steady fidelity enabled them to discover and oppose their pernicious designs. These insinuations, often repeated, produced their effect; *Koturi* secretly formed a strong party, by whose assistance he had certainly remounted the throne, if *Korsula* had not, almost in the moment of execution, by the cares of an
able

able and vigilant * minister been informed of the conspiracy. He prevented *Koturi's* design, by confining him in such a manner to his castle, that he seemed rather a prisoner of state, than the father of the reigning king. *Koturi* survived his abdication but two years, and died little regretted, with the character of a cunning, deceitful prince, without probity, quitting one side as soon as he found his interest in the opposite party, having all his life made a shameful trade of his alliances, without regard to the most solemn treaties; as to the rest, a great politician, perfectly skilled to obtain his ends, thoroughly acquainted with his own interest, and knowing what advantages to draw from the situation of his dominions, and their usefulness to the neighbouring powers. His son, a brave prince, and a great general, has since shown to all *Asia*, that in succeeding to his father's Crown, he inherits his genius, his ambition, and refined policy.

In the mean time the court of *Persia* was not without intrigues: Each minister had his party, and each party its powerful and zealous chiefs; while the ladies, either from inclination or caprice, or sometimes thro' their particular interests, were the soul that animated these different factions. The family of *Mirza Haddi*, with a great part of the nobility, whom its rank and power interested in its favour, espoused *Cosrou's* side; and this

* *The Marquis of Ormea.*

party

party was headed by *Roxana*, mother of *Mirza Haddi*, a haughty princess, absolute, violent, revengeful, a little too fond of cabal, and extremely jealous of her rank. The princes *Jesseing*, *Soliman* and *Sevagi*, without openly opposing *Cofrou*, secretly inclined to *Rica* and *Ibrahim*. The authority of these princes, supported by their relations and friends, who were numerous, made them the better able to ballance the party of *Cofrou*, as the *Atbematdoulet* and prince *Sevagi* were on good terms with each other. This last prince had openly declared for *Rica*: This was enough to engage *Roxana*, (who sought a long time to oppose him and *Soliman*, and with whom, tho' her own brothers, she lived at variance) to be of the contrary side. *Imael Beg*, the prime minister, who intirely governed *Sba Sepbi*, protected *Rbedi* and *Osman*, who by this support were secured from all danger. As to *Hassein*, his good fortune, and the little jealousy he gave, maintained him in his post, as much perhaps as the interest some ladies took in his safety, which was less on his own account, or of the services he could do them, than in respect to those by whom he was patronized.

Two ladies, in particular, made a shining appearance at court, and by the distinctions paid them by *Sba Sepbi* gave a great advantage to prince *Sevagi* and his party. The one, called * *Fatme*, was daughter of *Rox-*

* *Madam de Charolois.*

ana,

ana, and sister to *Mirza Haddi*. This princess had been extremely beautiful, and, tho' past the bloom of her age, still was very lovely. She was of a middle stature, well shaped, and every way graceful in all she did; her air was noble, her sense refined and delicate, and her conversation engaging; she was a kind mistress, and a tender and constant friend, extremely sensible of quarrels, for which she avoided giving occasions, losing her friends with regret, and only by their own fault; zealous to do good offices, of which she let slip no occasion: haughty yet gentle; melancholy, yet chearful; indolent, yet sprightly, sometimes whimsical and capricious; jealous of her rank, positive in her sentiments, fond of pleasure, turning night into day, and day into night; and supposed to be privately married to a nobleman of the first quality, who, it was said, had a long time found the art to please her, but whom, for reasons of state, she could not prevail upon herself openly to declare her husband.

The second, whose name was * *Zelide*, was a long time the inseparable companion of *Fatme*. They were united by the tenderest friendship, and during the life of prince *Sevagi*, *Zelide's* husband, nothing disturbed this union; but soon after his death, she broke with *Fatme*, and these two princesses, before so intimate, grew perfectly estranged so far as entirely to cease visiting. This change

* The Countess of Toulouse.

was the more surprizing, as *Zelide* being a lady of sense and judgment, it was presumed she could not be ignorant of what importance the friendship of *Fatme* might be to herself and her son yet a minor. But *Zelide*, wholly directed by *Nargum*, a man of fortune, in whom she placed an entire confidence, acted and thought as he pleased. This man hated *Fatme*, whose ascendant over *Zelide* he dreaded, and to whom he knew he was disagreeable, and he found means to instil the same sentiments into *Zelide*. *Nargum*, tho' possessed of a genius and abilities, yet was not sufficiently acquainted with a court. Thinking himself capable of succeeding in the most difficult enterprizes, without any other assistance than his own light, or any support but the rank and credit of *Zelide*, he disdained to communicate his projects, or to take advice and reunite the friends of the family of prince *Sevagi*, in affairs that concerned *Zelide* or her son. The vast sway this worthless man had obtained over *Zelide*, and the notions he had given her, cooled *Fatme*, and other powerful friends; and the wrong steps which *Zelide*, by his direction, took on occasions of the last consequence to the prince her son, quite sunk her credit, and lessened the esteem she had acquired.

Zelide, descended from a family, illustrious by its high alliances, as well as the offices and employments it sustained, had a great deal

deal of wit. Her character was haughty, but she was good-natured and sincere ; extremely attached to her religion, to the duties of which she scrupulously attended. She had no taste for violent pleasures, she knew how from time and circumstances to render herself amiable ; her sentiments were delicate, and she expressed herself with elegance ; was entertaining, lov'd expence, supporting her rank with dignity ; she was easily prepossessed, but difficult to be undeceived ; ambitious, jealous of favour, and well skilled to improve it ; ready to enterprize, and firm in execution ; sometimes too mean and even narrow in her own family ; too little on her guard against such as studied her foible with a design to govern her, bestowing and withdrawing her confidence on slender grounds, not over grateful, and still less generous. Her eyes were of a dark brown, a little dull ; her aspect was haughty or obliging, according to the people she received, but usually it was severe. Her face was full, her mouth charming, her smile agreeable, her complexion a little too high, her neck, arms and hands perfectly well shaped ; she was thick set, and had a heavy and stiff deportment ; her voice was shrill, and her accent bold and commanding.

While the widow of a young *Persian* lord, to whom she had been married but three years, her charms and wit gained her the

D

heart

heart of prince *Sevagi*, who courted her long, but being obliged to preserve the favour of *Ali Homajou*, did not marry her, till after that prince's death, who would undoubtedly have opposed the match. She was about thirty-six, when *Sevagi*, with his hand, gave her the rank and title of a princess. Their marriage was most happy; *Zelide* made the justest and most perfect returns to the extreme tenderness of her husband, who on her account renouncing the sex, loved her solely till his death, and in his last moments gave her the strongest marks of his esteem and affection. This happy pair lived together thirteen years, the only fruit of their marriage remaining being a prince, who was the dearer to them as he had been very difficult to bring up. His mother almost idolized him, and accustomed from the moment of his birth to tremble for his safety, his slightest indisposition gave her dreadful apprehensions.

From the time of his marriage, prince *Sevagi* passed the greatest part of the year at a fine estate he had, about ten hours journey from *Ispahan*. The castle was an antique building, whose outside made no great appearance, but whose apartments, by the immense cost bestowed on them, were extremely magnificent; a fine taste ran thro' their disposition, which was as commodious as well contrived. The situation of this palace was in a marshy bottom, so that it was unhealthy; but

but the improvements art had made round it, and the pleasures of hunting in a most spacious park, full of game, drew always thither much company. The air of grandeur that reigned in the house spoke the wealth and quality of the owner, and the care of the domestics to conform themselves to the generosity and hospitality of their lord, not only gained him love and respect, but themselves universal esteem.

It was here that *Sba Sephi* used to unbend himself from the fatigues of an importunate court. But he did on these occasions visit *Sevagi*, not as a monarch, but as a tender friend, who came to pass some days with him and *Zelide*, with a small number of ladies, and selected courtiers. Hunting a diversion this prince passionately lov'd, employed most of the day; at night gaming and entertainments furnished him new pleasures, which were often protracted till morning. Here the *Sopbi*, content, because unconstrained by pomp or state, was chearful and amiable, enlivening the conversation, giving himself up to gaiety with *Zelide* and *Fatme*, but was careful to let every one have by turns an equal share of his conversation, and pleas'd to put all his little court in good humour. *Ismael Beg*, tho' the particular friend of prince *Sevagi*, whether on account of his age or health, was seldom of these parties.

For twelve years, that is, during the life of

Sevagi, *Sha Sepbi* never failed several times in a year to make these excursions to this castle, which he very seldom visited after his death; a great proof of the esteem and friendship he had for that prince. It is however true, that *Zelide*, after she became a widow, should have led a less solitary life, since the interest of her son might have opened her eyes to see the necessity of appearing at court on his account; and that she should not in the *Sopbi's* last visits at the castle of ***, have avoided appearing at supper; *Nargum* also, who was no skilful manager, should not by his imperious airs, and an unseasonable parsimony, have disgusted some of the *Sopbi's* retinue, who, though of no great quality, had that prince's ear. And yet there was room to hope that the *Sopbi*, who tenderly loved the mother and son, would have continued his usual visits; but means were found to distaste him, and turn his attentions another way.

During these visits at prince *Sevagi's*, the king was not wholly engrossed by pleasures. He sometimes shut himself up with him, *Zelide* and *Fatme*, or with one or other of them, and in these precious moments they obtained from the monarch all the favours, their own interests, or those of their friends or dependants required. But this was always done with reserve, and generally by agreement with the *Athemadoulet*, who was either

acquainted beforehand, or reconciled in the end. It was in these petty councils that they obtained for the young prince, son of *Sevagi*, the grant in reversion of the governments and offices of his father. It was in these, that the king was prevailed on to recal from exile * *Nadir*, the son of *Zelide* by her first marriage, who by a rashness, excuseable only from his youth, had entered into a conspiracy to destroy *Ismael Beg*. It was in these secret conferences, that methods were taken to disgrace *Cofrou*, and the blows aim'd at him were more dangerous as he was ignorant of them; and here, by the advice of *Ismael Beg* himself, who intended to retire, the necessary measures were taken to place prince *Sevagi* at the head of affairs; in fine, it was in these country visits, that *Sba Sephi* was first discover'd to have a rising inclination to the fair sex. This Cabal, apprehensive that by consulting only his passion he might raise to the rank of favourite some beautiful young lady, ambitious, and capable of governing, thought it most adviseable for their joint interest to bias his inclination in favour of † *Retima*, who had no qualifications to make her dreaded, one on whom they could depend, and from whom they took care to exact a promise, that she would be contented with the bare honours of the handkerchief §, and would ask

D 3 nothing

* The Marquis *D'Antin*. † Madem. *De Mailli*.

§ This alludes to the custom of the Sultan's giving the handkerchief to the lady who is to pass the night with him

nothing of the *Sopbi*, without the consent of those who, she knew, had his confidence and esteem. A very singular treaty, by which *Retima* dearly bought an appearance of credit, and the honour of shining at the king's side in the parties of pleasure, to which none but his favourites were admitted, yet a treaty she religiously kept during all the time of her favour, and is an instance of punctuality the more commendable, as it is perhaps unexampled, as she could not be ignorant that there are advantageous moments, in which a female favourite may dare to ask any thing even of a prince the least complaisant, especially when she is his first choice. But probably the passion of *Retima* was disinterested and sincere, and she sought less in *Ska Sepbi* the monarch than the lover: so true an affection had she for this prince.

Retima, the wife of * *Usbeck*, a *Persian* lord, was neither young nor handsome; she was about thirty-five, her visage and nose long, her forehead large and high, her cheeks a little flat, her mouth large, her complexion rather dark than fair, her eyes large and fine, very lively, but had a forbidding cast, her voice was hoarse and disagreeable, her neck and arms homely; it was said she had a fine leg, a beauty perhaps owing to her leanness; she was tall, and had a stately walk, but wanted both grace and majesty, tho' she dressed with great art, and in a fine taste, having a

Monf. *Dé Mailli.* talent

talent of adjusting her person to advantage, which all the ladies at court strove to imitate in vain. She had a great share of sense and sincerity, but little or no ambition; she was entertaining, chearful, of an equal temper, a sure friend, generous, compassionate, fond to oblige, which she did as it were at second hand, being afraid to do it herself, lest she should lose the favour of those who had rais'd her, and particularly apprehensive of forfeiting the protection of *Ismael Beg*, who, finding the necessity of suffering a mistress, had no cause to disapprove the choice of *Retima*, whose character he knew too well to fear her depriving him of his authority over the *Sophi*.

Some have supposed that this passion was not real, but only served to veil *Sha Sephi's* amour with a sister of *Retima*, called * *Zachi*, lately married to a young lord of the court. *Zachi* was tall, not handsomer than *Retima*, but younger; she had an infinite share of wit, was haughty, enterprizing, envious and revengeful, fond of power and authority, having few friends, and but ill qualified to increase their number, wholly self-interested, and intent to raise her fortune by her favour, in which she would have infallibly succeeded if death had not stop'd her in the beginning of her career; in a word, she was a dangerous favourite. She died in childbed little regretted, not without some suspicion that her

growing influence, and her restless ambitious temper contributed to shorten her days. *Sba Sephi* bewail'd her loss for some time ; the tender *Retima*, whose heart was sincere, shared his grief, and was truly affected with her sister's loss. As the *Sopbi* greatly regretted *Zachi*, and took a particular care of the child she left behind, there was reason to believe that he passionately loved her.

The king's diversions, which this accident had interrupted, took the usual train. Hunting, several little excursions, sometimes to prince *Sevagi*'s, sometimes to other villas near the capital, the tender attachment and cares of *Retima*, who constantly attended the king, the endeavours used by *Fatme* and *Zelide* to divert him, and, above all, the exquisite entertainments provided for him in those delightful retreats, where none but his confidants had access, all conspired to make him forget *Zachi*. These retreats were of the *Sopbi*'s own contrivance ; without being entirely separated from his palace, they had only so far a communication with it, as was necessary for the use. A secret door from the monarch's apartment gave him the liberty of access to these sequestered rooms, when he had a mind to entertain himself with his selected favourites. Every thing at these seasons was commodiously and elegantly disposed. To give the reader some idea of it, we shall use the words

words of a contemporary author *, little known.

“ It was (says he) a small temple, where
 “ were frequently celebrated nocturnal feasts
 “ in honour of *Bacchus* and *Venus*. The
 “ *Sophi* was high-priest, *Retima* high-priestess;
 “ the rest of the sacred choir was composed
 “ of the finest women, and the most accom-
 “ plished courtiers, persons worthy to be
 “ initiated in these mysteries. There by the
 “ most exquisite libations, and different
 “ hymns in praise of *Bacchus*, they endea-
 “ voured to obtain his favourable intercession
 “ with the *Cyprian* goddess, to whom from
 “ time to time they presented the richest of-
 “ ferings. These libations were made with
 “ the most costly and rare wines, the most
 “ delicious viands served for the sacrifices, and
 “ were often (especially on solemn days)
 “ dressed by the hands of the high-priest him-
 “ self. *Comus* had the direction of these
 “ feasts, in which *Momus* presided. No slave
 “ was suffered to assist in these solemn and
 “ august rites, nor to enter the inside of the
 “ temple, till the moment when the priests
 “ and priestesses, oppressed with the favour
 “ of the deities, fell into an extasy or trance,
 “ the violence of which discover’d the ex-
 “ cess of their zeal, and the presence of the
 D 5 “ powers

* History of the different religions introduced into *Persia*, from the death of *Alexander the Great* to the present time. By *Kedgia*.

“ powers they adored. When the ceremonies were thus consummated, these favourites of the gods were carried off with respect, and the gates of the temple shut up. Certain days of the year were solely consecrated to *Bacchus*, the honours of which were likewise under the direction of *Comus*, and were called the lesser festivals. On these the high priest admitted into the temple *Sevagi*, *Fatme*, *Zelide*, and some others, before whom, as prophane persons, only the ordinary rites were performed. In effect, so far were they from being of the fortunate number to whom the essential and important ceremonies of worship were intrusted, that they were scarce thought worthy of that small part in them, of which they were partakers.”

While *Sba Sephi* thus abandon'd himself to pleasure, *Ismael Beg* and *Cosrou* were taken up with greater affairs. The unexpected death of * *Mahmoud*, king of † *Thibet*, put all *Asia* in agitation, each power desiring to see that throne fill'd with a prince agreeable to its interest; *Persia* in particular was greatly concerned, not to lose so favourable an opportunity of replacing that crown on the head of ‖ *Chekour*, father-in-law to the *Sophi*.

Thibet is an extensive and fertile country, situated in *Great Tartary*, and bordering upon the kingdom of § *Zagatbay*, and the empires of *Russia*, and *Mogul*. It is divided into the

* *Augustus*. † *Poland*. ‖ *K. Stanislaus*. § *Prussia*.

the *Greater and Lesser Thibet*. The nobility, or grandees, have an absolute power even over the lives of the people, who are slaves. Their troops consist chiefly in cavalry; the government is of a mixt kind, the king having power to do nothing without the concurrence and consent of the nobility, but vested with a right of disposing of all offices, which, however, can be only held by the natives. This crown has always been elective, and sold to the highest bidder. On these occasions it is, that the *Thibetians*, naturally covetous and selfish, sell their votes at a dear rate, being ready for a bribe on all hands, siding one day with this candidate, the next with another, and sometimes changing parties more than once in the same day. At the time of election, the custom is for every grandee to appear at the place appointed for the general assembly, with a certain number of troops, which when all united, form a numerous army, the intention of which is to secure the electors from any attempts of an enterprizing candidate, as well as to furnish the prince elected with the effectual and ready means of reducing his opposers.

It had been a considerable time since *Mahmoud*, * *Raja* of *Labor*, had been elected king of this country. He had scarce taken possession of this new dignity, when encouraged by the proximity of his hereditary territory of *Labor*, from whence he could easily draw

Electors of *Saxony*;

sup-

supplies, he endeavoured to stretch the royal authority beyond the limits prescrib'd to his predecessors, and to oppress the liberty of the *grandees*. He was even so imprudent as to attack, without any pretence, the king of * *Jalekelder*, whose youth he openly despised. This injured prince entered *Thibet* with an army, and being seconded by the malecontents, dethroned *Mahmoud*, who fled to his principality; after which, assembling the *grandees*, he caused the election to fall on † *Chekour*, one of the most considerable *Thibetian* lords of his party; but being young, and eager after conquest, like another *Alexander*, carrying his arms into remote regions, was at last totally defeated at § *Lotupwa*. Immediately *Mahmoud* took his advantage of the defeat, re-enter'd *Thibet* with a numerous army, defeated *Chekour*, and forced him in his turn to fly. This unfortunate king thought himself happy to find an azylum in *Persia*, where he passed his days in tranquillity, till the death of *Mahmoud*, which the *Athemadoulet* made a handle || of, under pretence of arming in favour of the *Sophi*'s father-in-law, to promote projects of much greater importance. In effect, the conduct of *Ismael Beg* in this affair, gave occasion to think, that the restoring *Chekour* to his crown was not his only view, but rather he took this opportunity, by op-

* *Charles XII. of Sweden.*

† *Stanislaus.* § *Pultowa.* || See the declaration of war, *Gent. Mag.* Vol. 3. p. 553, and a short answer, p. 609.

posing the designs of the * *Great Mogol*, to kindle a war, the secret aim of which was, at the expence of that prince, to form a considerable sovereignty for a son of the king of *China*, to augment the dominions of the king of *Necbal*, with whom *Persia* had contracted a close alliance, and to procure *Sba Sephi* other considerable advantages.

Before we enter into the detail of this war and its consequences, we think proper to inform the reader of what passed in *Thibet* at this new election.

The *Mogol*, supported by *Russia*, strongly recommended to the *Thibetian* nobility the son of *Mahmoud*, who had succeeded his father in the principality of *Labor*, situated in his empire on which it depended, and who was married to one of his nieces, motives which might well justify his espousing his interests. With a view of more effectually supporting this candidate, the *Mogol* and *Russia*, each marched an army towards the frontiers of *Thibet*, a very proper way of influencing the suffrages of the grandees, who saw the danger of disobliging two powers, who solicited with the sword drawn. *Ismael Beg*, more moderate in appearance, represented to all the *Asiatic* courts how shameful it was thus to oppress the liberties of *Thibet*, at the same time he employed a skilful emissary in that country to purchase underhand with *Persian* money the votes of the nobility. This

* The Emperor *Charls VI.*

method

method, which was more agreeable to the grandees, joined to the assurances they received from *Persia* of a powerful succour in case they were attacked, as well as their inclination to *Cbekour*, who was a native, and had been their king before, produced all the effects *Ismael Beg* expected. There wanted only the presence of that prince to remove the obstacles that remained. Great preparations were made in *Persia* for *Cbekour's* journey, and while a splendid equipage set out for *Thibet*, as if attending his person, he secretly, and in disguise, took a different road, and arrived safe in *Thibet*, with only one attendant. He was immediately † elected by the grandees, only one of them refusing his vote, who left the assembly, and retiring to some distance from the field of election with the troops he had brought, proclaimed at their head the son of *Mahmoud*. This event would have produced no ill consequence, if *Cbekour*, as he was pressed to do, had put himself at the head of the crown army, and attacked the rebel, whom he might easily have destroyed: But either unwilling to stain his accession to the throne with the blood of his subjects, or thro' indolence, or too great a contempt for the revolters, whose number seem'd inconsiderable, he sat still, and gave the dissaffected party time to gather strength, and put the son of *Mahmoud* at their head.

This

† See this affair, *Gent. Mag.* Vol. 3, p. 497.

‡ The late King *Augustus*.

This impolitic conduct lost him the crown a second time ; the greatest number of his friends abandoned him, and sided with his competitor ; the few who continued faithful, were compelled to yield to superior force. *Chekour* was himself constrained to fly, and, with those who followed his fortune, to shelter himself in a frontier * town of *Thibet*, where he was quickly besieged.

This ill news soon reached *Persia* ; all the people regarded the affair of *Thibet* as a national concern, and loudly said that the glory of the *Sophi*, and the honour of *Persia* were interested in the support of *Chekour*. *Ismael Beg*, or rather *Cofrou*, pleased with this zeal, which justified in the eyes of all *Asia* the vast preparations which were making for war, sent a small body of troops towards *Thibet*, which he gave out were to be followed from time to time by fresh reinforcements, being (as he said) unwilling to send at once a large body for fear of giving umbrage to some neighbouring powers, whom it was improper to disoblige : Nor was it thought convenient too much to weaken the forces at home, at a time when the *Mogol*, who was justly suspected of meditating some designs to the prejudice of *Persia*, was in arms.

The first column of these succours designed for *Chekour* arrived safely at the capital of
the

* *Dantzick*.

the kingdom of † *Balk*, the prince of which was in alliance with *Persia*. Immediately § *Onumar*, then resident from the *Sopbi* at the court of *Balk*, a brisk enterprizing man, rather guided by zeal than prudence, put himself at the head of these troops, and, contrary to the advice of the commandant, who was for waiting the arrival of the troops that followed, he march'd to the town besieged, with an intention to throw himself into the place. Being arrived in sight of the besiegers lines he grew impatient, and with a handful of men, brave and resolute indeed, he endeavoured to force a passage. But after sustaining a considerable loss, he * fell himself in the action. The commandant, who had foreseen the ill success of the attempt, made a good retreat, and gained in safety the capital of *Balk*, where the remainder of the succours from *Persia* arrived soon after. It was then resolved to make a second attempt to relieve the town, and for this end to employ stratagem rather than force. They accordingly marched to the enemy, but all the artifices they used were fruitless, and they had been obliged to return as they came, if a young officer, scarce twenty years old, had not offered on forfeit of his head to throw part of the troops into the place. The method he proposed was, to convey them by night in boats along the river which washed the walls of the town. This project was

† *Demark*. § *Count de Plelo*.

* See the *Gent. Mag.* Vol. IV. p. 334. C.

approved, and the officer, notwithstanding the fire of the besiegers, who were alarmed by the noise of the oars, luckily conveyed the succours into the town, and by the same means, and good fortune returned to the main army. This little supply heartened the besieged, who in hopes of more considerable assistance defended themselves vigorously; but being disappointed in their expectation, they lost all courage. *Chekour* foreseeing by the extremity the place was reduced to, that it would soon be obliged to surrender, and having good cause to mistrust the † General of the besiegers, who he knew had a design on his person, secretly left the town two days before the capitulation, attended only by a faithful officer, who perfectly knew the country. With this guide, after the greatest

* hazards, and by secret ways, he at last arrived at § *Samarcand*, a town of || *Zagathay*, where by order of the king he was received with all the honours due to his rank. After a short stay here, he returned to *Persia*, to lead a more peaceful and happy life than he

† Count *Munich*, the *Russian* General. could

* Crossing the river in a little boat, and in it rowing through inundations, reeds and marshes, sometimes drawing the boat over swamps into deeper water, travelling up to the knees in mud, obliged to lie a night and a day concealed in a garret under straw, in a house visited by *Muscovites* and *Cossacks*, who were searching for him, till after six days inexpressible fatigue and danger he happily crossed the *Vistula* and *Nogat*, and arrived at *Marienwerder*. See his own affecting journal of this escape, *Gent. Mag.* Vol. IV. pag. 629, 705.

§ *Koningberg*. || *Prussia*.

could ever have enjoyed on the throne of *Thibet*, of which at the ensuing peace he was allowed to retain the title of *king*. To this mark of distinction were added other (a) honours, sufficient to satisfy a prince not very ambitious, on whose account *Persia* knew how to make herself full amends for the vast expences which, under pretence of assisting his father-in-law, *Sba Sepbi* was at in the war he declared against the *Great Mogol*.

Chekour, when he left *Samarcand*, was fifty nine years old. This prince was middle-sized, thick-set, and high-shoulder'd. His face was full, his physiognomy agreeable, and his deportment free and easy; but without that air of awe and majesty which is requisite in kings. To a natural good and sweet disposition he joined a mildness, and generosity of soul, which his fortune deprived him of the power of exerting as he would. He was no Warrior, little troubled with ambition, and rather too humble and familiar in his behaviour. In this point he differed greatly from his queen, who was haughty and ambitious, and continually regretted her lost grandeur, whereas he preferred retirement and liberty to all the pomp of a court. His life had been full of changes: twice he saw himself seated on the throne of *Thibet*; the first time by the power of a victorious king, joined to the discontent of the *Thibetian* lords at *Mahmoud*; the second by the support of
the

(a) The Cession of the Dutchies of *Lorrain* and *Bar*.

the king of *Persia*, his son-in-law. Twice he was forced to abdicate the throne; the first time by the defeat of his protector, and the inconstancy of his subjects; the second by his indolence and excessive confidence, or, in other words, by his own fault. Thus fortune treated this prince, by his good qualities worthy of a better fate, but whom nature had formed fitter for privacy than state.

Persia having declared war against the *Mogol* emperor, the *Sopbi* caused two large armies to take the field: The one was designed to act on the * *Indus*, the other in the countries water'd by the ||| *Ganges*.

† *Boulaki*, who commanded the former, having passed the *Indus*, seized without much resistance a strong fort [*Kehl*] and entering the enemy's country besieged || *Doltabat*, a strong place, which did not make the defence expected. Notwithstanding the disadvantages of the ground, and the continued rains, this general push'd the works with vigour. The soldiers, animated by his presence and example, rushed on to the attacks up to the waist in water, with a zeal and courage worthy the greatest praises. *Boulaki* having made himself master of the outworks, prepared to storm the place, when he was § killed in the midst of his children and some general officers by a cannon ball, just at the time when, led by his hot and positive hu-

* The *Rhine*. ||| The *Po*. mour

† Duke of *Berwick*. || *Philipsburgh*. § See his character, *Gent. Mag.* Vol. IV. p. 333.

mour, or his ill fate, he stood exposed on the top of the trenches, to see the effect of the batteries he had ordered. By his death *Sba Sephi* lost a brave general, and experienced, active and vigilant officer, who kept an exact discipline amongst the troops, and was a man of uncommon probity. His loss greatly afflicted the soldiers, but did not discourage them. * *Sujab* and † *Ibbi*, his lieutenant generals, far inferior to him in capacity, had all the honour of this siege, the place surrendring to them a few days after his death. *Sujab*, who was grown old in the profession of war, and had been the raiser of his own fortune, had the post which in *Europe* is called grand master of the *artillery*, which however he was not well skilled in. He was irresolute, seldom forming any certain plan, but acting according to circumstances. He often committed faults, and did not well enough know how to improve the advantages arising from his own position, or that of an enemy. *Ibbi*, the brother of *Zelide*, whom we have mentioned, had a good understanding, and a very extensive knowledge in many things besides war, which he affected to be a great master of, perhaps because he had been long in the service ; but he was really an indifferent officer, being too cautious ; a fault, which giving the soldiery room to suspect their leader of fear, deprives them of that confidence which

* M. D'Asfeldt.

† M. De Noailles.

which is the soul of an army, and the most solid assurance of success. He was also short-sighted; a defect, which on some important occasions had caused him to mistake shadows for realities. He had a graceful appearance, was very brisk and opinionative, little esteemed by the soldiers, but a refined and successful courtier. The conduct of the army of *Boulaki* was intrusted to these generals; who, jealous of each other, did not act in concert, and spent this summer and the following without any thing remarkable.

The third campaign, to prevent the prejudice the public affairs received from this misunderstanding, *Ibbi* was removed, and sent to the army on the *Ganges*, and * *Seif*, one of the generals of that army, had orders to fill his post. Notwithstanding this precaution, and though *Sujab* and *Seif* agreed perfectly, yet the *Sopbi*'s arms made no great progress on the *Indus*, the *Mogol* emperor having opposed to them a great general, called † *Eveneg*, who was grown old in the profession of arms, having made war in different countries, and with different nations. By this he had acquired an uncommon experience, and justly merited the name of the greatest captain of the age he lived in. His birth was illustrious, and he supported that dignity by an extraordinary merit. This generosity of temper was

* *M. De Coigny.* † *Pr. Eugene.* heightned

heightned by a greatness of mind, and a magnanimity, which made him almost adored by his own troops, as well as feared and admired by his enemies. Some coldnesses, which he had met with in his youth at the court of *Persia*, forced him to enter into the service of the *Mogol*, who received him with open arms, and employ'd him directly. His first exploits in war foretold his future reputation, and when he arrived at the chief command, he gave *Persia* frequent occasions to repent her not having secured him in her interests.

All that *Sujah* and *Seif* could do against so formidable an antagonist, who gave them perpetual alarms, was to preserve their conquests, and to post themselves always so advantageously, or intrench themselves so strongly, as to avoid being forced to an engagement. But in the desperate state to which the *Mogol's* affairs were reduced by his great losses in the * provinces on the *Ganges*, it was a master-stroke in † *Eveneg* to reduce the *Persian* generals to stand on the defensive, even in their own conquests; for if *Persia* had had as great success on the *Indus* as on the *Ganges*, we may affirm the *Mogol* had been ruined. It is true, this monarch had undertaken the war contrary to the advice of *Eveneg*, who was far from thinking *Persia* so contemptible an enemy as she appeared to his master. The reign-

* In *Italy*. † *Pr. Eugene*.

ing *Mogol* was called || *Sba Ressinc Frola*; we shall in the sequel speak of him, his dominions and government.

§ *Gemchid*, an old warrior, aged fourscore, who had gained a high reputation, rather by his courage, which his uncommon good fortune, and a confidence of success, contributed to carry sometimes to a degree of rashness, than any experience founded on a close study of his profession, (which he entered upon with but a small fortune, very young, and in which he had found the secret of amassing great riches) was named general of the *Persian* army, designed to act on the *Ganges*. He had in some sort solicited this command, and it was not a little ridiculous to see this grey-headed hero, stooping under his armour, making at his setting out such rodomontades as were scarce pardonable in a young officer. His instructions were to join his troops to those of the king of *Necbal*, and briskly attack the *Mogols* on one side, while the *Chinese* did so on the other. The conjunction was accordingly made, and the combined army, commanded by the king of *Necbal*, was found formidable enough to make a powerful diversion. *Gemchid* behaved well, but the infirmities inseparable from his great age, increased by the fatigues of a camp, threw him into a sickness, which carried him off towards the end of the campaign. He died at a * city a small distance from the

|| Emp. *Charles VI.* § Marshal *De Villars.* army,

* See his character, *Gent. Mag.* Vol. IV. p. 333.

army, and (as it is said) in the very chamber where he drew his first breath. The king of *Nebal*, in appearance, regretted him; but at the bottom was not displeased to be rid of a man, who deafen'd him continually with his capacity, and who opposed all his projects with the less complaisance, as the troops which he commanded, made the most considerable part of the allied army.

* *Nessir* and *Seif*, who served as lieutenant generals under *Gemchid*, on his death took the command of the *Persian* army. Both these generals were enterprizing, fond of glory, but a little too careless as to discipline, and for that reason beloved by the soldiery. They were very fit for what in war is called a *bold stroke*, excellent to command in second, or to shine at the head of a detachment, but wanted the patience and wisdom necessary to govern a large army. In other respects, they were brave officers, and acted in concert for the good of the common cause.

Nessir, in the course of this war met with a small disgrace, occasioned by his obstinacy in not manning an advanced post in sight of the enemy, though he was advised to the contrary. He insisted the place was secure from its position and the nature of the ground, but by his neglect of it he was the same night surpris'd and forced in his quarters. He was even so full of confidence, that after

* *Marshall De Broglie*.

ter having visited and secured at evening all the other posts, he went to bed in his tent with as great unconcern and tranquillity as if he had been in his hotel at *Ispahan*. Scarce had he slept two hours, when he was wakened suddenly by the noise of arms, and the cries of the confederates. He rose immediately, and prepared to dress himself, and fly where the danger called; but the attack was so unforeseen, and so well conducted, that the *Mogolians* had got to his tent, so that half naked he was forced to escape, and happily purchase his safety with the loss of his equipage. This little misfortune, the necessary consequence of his confidence and imprudence, afforded for some days a subject of raillery to the soldiers, who love to jest with every thing, even without respect to their leaders; but as * *Nessir's* courage was unquestionable, his reputation no way suffered by this accident.

About this time *Sha Shepbi*, to reward the good services of his generals, *Sujab*, *Ibbi*, *Nessir*, and *Seif*, on the same day sent to each of them the grand *Calaat* †.

Tho' the *Mogol* had sent to the § *Ganges* the flower of his troops, and given their command to || *Semir*, a brave and experienced

* Marshal de Broglie.

general

† *Calaat* is a robe of honour sent by the *Grand Signior* and other eastern princes to such generals or governors as behave well: but it is here metaphorically put for the *Batoon* of *Marshal of France*.

§ Into Italy.

E

|| Count *Merci*.

general, yet his arms were unsuccessful. By frequent skirmishes between detachments, in which the *Mogol* troops had generally the disadvantage, the allies forced the passes, and taking several towns after each other, opened a way into the finest provinces of the empire. The *Persians* had still new grounds to hope for greater conquests, as *Semir* in a battle he engaged in, lost his life just at the moment when the ardour of his troops had disordered those of his enemies, and flattered him with a complete victory. Whatever care was taken to conceal his death from his army, they soon discovered it, and lost courage; this turn gave time to the combined army to recover itself; and fall with such fury on the *Mogolians*, that after a weak resistance they were totally defeated.

The remarkable successes of this campaign, joined to the progress the *Chinese* made on their side, decided the remainder of the war. **Sigoken*, who succeeded *Semir* in the command found it impossible to re-establish matters; the *Mogolians* were driven from post to post. The king of **Necbal* discovered on all occasions an uncommon activity and courage; his capacity, at an age which might excuse his want of it, surpassed that of the oldest generals, and was equally admired by officers and soldiers, who, wherever he led, believed they marched to an assured victory. It was in these dispositions, so flattering to a commander,

* Count *Konigsec.* * *Sardinia.*

mander, and so conspicuous in themselves, that the battle of * *Grix* was fought; a battle the more bloody, as the two armies attacked each other by separate bodies, which were again succeeded by others; so that it might be said there were as many distinct actions in it, as there were regiments engaged. *Sigoken* did all that could be expected from an able commander, and the *Mogolians*, as if it had been their last effort, fought like men desperate. But after an obstinate and sanguine resistance, they were forced to quit the field to the *Persians*; who, being themselves weakened by the loss they sustained, left them a free retreat, contented with an advantage which had cost them dear.

It was in this engagement that a *Persian* † officer of note, leading his troops to the charge, had the misfortune to fall, and remain a considerable time trampled on by the men and horses, who rode over his body. In this deplorable condition, he was at last drawn out from amongst the slain, but was soon recovered, without having much hurt; he was one of the handsomest men ever seen, and taxed with admiring his own person as much as a *lady*: which gave room for some to say, that out of concern for his beauty, he had preferred this method of saving it, though to the hazard of being either killed, or greatly disfigured.

E 2

After

* *Guaftalla*.

† The Duke de la Trimouille.

After this battle, there passed nothing remarkable. The combined army approached the strong towns, and seemed by their preparations and dispositions to threaten a siege of consequence; but the propositions of peace made in the *interim* procured a suspension of arms. However, the armies continued both on the *Ganges* and *Indus*, till the contending powers having agreed, withdrew their troops, and till the conclusion of the treaty in agitation, left matters on the footing they were.

Besides the considerable losses which the *Mogul emperor* sustained in this war, and which induced him to wish it ended; there were other strong motives to incline him to peace. This prince was about fifty one, and of a tender constitution. He had no children but daughters; and the age of his empress, who was forty-five, gave him no prospect of an heir to continue his family, the *male line* of which was thus likely to cease with himself. The fear of leaving * princeesses, yet young, to maintain an expensive war, or as some think, his design of marrying the eldest of his daughters to some prince he might recommend to his subjects for his successor, and in this having no mind to expose himself to the opposition of the powers with whom he was then at variance; were the reasons which influenced him to hearken to an accommodation.

* The Archduchesses.

After some preliminary negotiations betwixt his ministers and those of *Persia*, which were kept secret, lest the king of *Necbal*, or the emperor of *China*, should have started some difficulty to interrupt them, the articles were signed at *Gehanabad*, the capital of *Indoston*, and the residence of the *Mogol* emperor. The substance of them was, “ That
 “ *Chekour* should resign the crown of *Tibet*,
 “ retaining the title of king, in which quality he should be acknowledged by all
 “ the contending powers. That he should
 “ be put in peaceable possession of the principality of * *Tatta*, to enjoy it during life ;
 “ and that after his death, that territory
 “ should be united in full sovereignty for
 “ ever to the crown of *Persia*. That the
 “ † son of *Mahmoud* should be acknowledged
 “ as king of *Poland* by *Chekour* and his
 “ allies. That to indemnify the prince of
 “ *Tatta* for sacrificing his dominions to
 “ the publick tranquillity, he should have
 “ the principality of § *Aracam*. That the
 “ son of the emperor of *China* should be
 “ acknowledged as king of §§ *Cochinchina*, and
 “ countries dependent on it. That the
 “ king of *Necbal* should have the territory
 “ of || *Ava*, and its districts. That *Persia*
 “ should restore the conquests she had made
 “ in the *Mogol* empire during the war, exclusive of certain domains granted that emperor in full propriety. And lastly, that *Persia*

* Lorrain. † K. Augustus II. Elector of “ should Saxony. § Tuscany. §§ Naples. || Part of Milan.

“ should guarantee the * *famous edict* by
 “ which the *Mogol* had settled the succession
 “ of his *hereditary estates* in his own family.”

Such was the issue and conclusion of a war, from whence *Sha Ressinc Frola*, though reduced to the greatest extremity, found means happily to extricate himself, at the expence of the princes of † *Tatta* and *Aracam*. As to his giving up the kingdom of *Cochinchina*, and the territory of *Ava*, it was only making a *virtue* of necessity, since the *Chinese* had wholly subdued the former, to which they had old pretensions; and on the other hand, the king of *Necbal* and the *Persians* were masters, not only of *Ava*, but of the best *provinces* near the *Ganges*; besides, these cessions of the *Mogol* were sufficiently counterbalanced by the generosity of *Persia* in restoring the conquests she had made, and in the territories left him in full *propriety* by the peace; a title more certain, than his pretended *rights* to the *countries* he gave up.

As soon as these articles were signed, in which each of the contending powers, and especially the *Great Mogol*, found his own advantages, that prince hastened the conclusion of the match, betwixt his eldest daughter *Nagar*, and *Narsic* prince of *Aracam*, who before the peace was stiled prince of *Tatta*. But *Sha Ressinc Frola*, still hoping for an heir, made this *new couple* renounce the *Mogol crown*, in case he had a son. By the

* The Pragmatic Sanction. † The same
 Dukes of *Lorrain* and *Tuscany*.

same act it was stipulated, that if *Nagar* had no male issue, and her sister *Remana* had, the children of the latter should succeed, to the exclusion of the daughters of *Nagar*, in the *Mogol's* hereditary estates, to which *Narsic* (as to his person) was cut off from all pretensions.

* *Cofrou*, who could not be denied the honour of having procured *Sba Sephi* and his allies great advantages by this peace, was turning all his attention, that *Persia* might enjoy the fruits of his labours, when he was suddenly disgraced. His accusation was, that by the treaty of *Gebanabad* he had sacrificed the interest of the allied powers to the *Mogol emperor*, and made peace upon too easy conditions: that in the distress to which that prince was brought, he might have been forced, to save himself from ruin, to sign any terms. This minister was also charged with having received immense sums, by way of bribe, for this important service. It was given out, that *Sba Sephi* had warned *Ismael Beg* to watch the conduct of *Cofrou*; and hinted to him, that he was well informed he abused his trust: but the *Athematdoulet*, prejudiced in favour of a man who was devoted to him, and whose abilities he could not dispense with, continually justified him, and ascribed the allegations thrown out against him to envy and malice. At last,

* *M. Chauvelin.*

whether

whether they got convincing proofs of this minister's infidelity, or that *Ismael Beg* found it impossible to support him longer, he was arrested, and confined to a strong *castle*, where no person, not even of his own family, was admitted to see him. A punishment too gentle for his crime, if it had been well proved; but too severe for a bare suspicion of it. It is even probable, that there wanted proofs sufficient to condemn him, since his imprisonment was short, and he was, by the *court's* order, removed to the capital town of a *province*, where he enjoyed the liberty granted to a man who is not regarded as a state criminal, his family had free access to him, and he had leave to visit his friends, to receive and write letters. Such was the fall of a *great statesman*, whom perhaps a slight imprudence, or rather the credit of the enemies of the house of **Mirza Haddi*, which openly supported him, contributed to disgrace, rather than any crime justly laid to his charge.

He was succeeded in his post of first secretary of state by *Tamel*, and the keeping of the *Sophi's* great seal was restored to old *Ibrahim*, from whom it had been taken sixteen years before.

† *Tamel* was descended of a family famous for politics, and had a long time been employed in the *finances*; for which post he was

* The Duke of Bourbon.

† M. Amelot.

was much fitter than that he was now advanced to, in which he made not the best figure. He had a good understanding, was indefatigable, active, ambitious and jealous. He stammered, a great *defect* in a person, whose post obliged him daily to confer with foreign ministers. To assist him in the laborious part of his office, he had the good fortune to have able men, who had been long experienced in business, and were perfectly acquainted with the interests of *Persia*, as well as those of all the foreign powers. These *men* may be considered as the *props* of a *state*, being less exposed than the first ministers to the strokes of envy; and the less subject to be turned out, as it is not easy to find others capable to supply their place. *Ministries* change often, but these *under officers* usually hold for life. It seems just therefore that a minister should pay due regard to them, as the necessary *agents* under him, and in place next to himself. But * *Tamel*, haughty and jealous of his rank, having a pique at one of these persons, because he had justly been a favourite of *Cofrou*, resolved his ruin. For this end he accused him of secret correspondence, particularly with that *disgraced minister*, and of refusing to communicate to him some *important secrets* of state, which he alledged he knew. On this slight impeachment the
 poor

* M. *Amclot*.

poor man was seized, and so closely imprisoned, that his wife could not obtain leave to see him. Though so severe a treatment might give room to think him guilty, yet his integrity was so universally known and believed, that he was not suspected of the slightest fault. His misfortune, on the contrary, was solely ascribed to the envy and bad character of *Tamel*, who by this affair hurt himself, both with foreigners and with the *Persian* nation.

It was soon after *Cosrou's* disgrace that *Ismael Beg* began to think of resigning the post of prime minister, and determined the *Sophi* to cast his eyes on prince * *Sevagi* for his successor. With regard to probity, zeal for the publick good, and a discerning judgement, this prince could not have made a better choice. Indeed these are the essential, and perhaps the only qualifications requisite in a *statesman*; for as to the toilsome part, and the *detail* of *affairs*, it is well enough known, that a *minister* is always surrounded with people ready to take the burden off his hands. It seems therefore sufficient that a *prime minister* be possessed of integrity and a love of glory; that his views be sure and well conducted; and especially that his understanding be clear, discerning and just; all which accomplishments united in prince *Sevagi*.

This

* The count of *Toulouse*.

This prince, naturally indolent, was at this time of an *age*, that seemed to require *repose* rather than *business*. His health was besides infirm, and the death of his brother **Soliman*, which happened a year before, had made a sensible impressi^on on him. He had long resisted the earnest sollicitations of *Ismael Beg*, and even of the king himself. But as he really loved *Sba Sepbi*, he could not refuse him this instance of his entire attachment to his person, without some sort of ingratitude. The measures were concerted for naming him *Athematdoulet*, at a royal pleasure-house about twelve leagues from *Ispahan*, where the *Sopbi* designed to spend part of the autumn, with all his court. How weak are the schemes of mortals in the sight of heaven! *Sevagi*, who had twenty years before been cut for the *stone*, finding for the two or three years last past some pains in the bladder, which made him apprehend the return of this dreadful disorder, had used such remedies as seemed to give him present ease, tho' in reality they were only palliatives. Just at the time of *Sba Sepbi's* departure, his complaints returned in a more violent and frequent manner than usual, attended with very dangerous symptoms, which gave just ground for alarm. The physicians of the first rank were immediately called, as well as a † foreign surgeon of eminence, who then luckily was at *Ispahan*.

* The duke de *Maine*.

† This is only a Blind to mislead the Reader.

They

They carefully examined the present state of the *patient*, comparing it with what had happened before. The foreign *surgeon* applied the probe; and the result of the consultation was, that the prince had an ulcer in the *urethra*; and that in order to stop the progress of it, and prevent certain death, it was absolutely necessary to perform the operation. Tho' this seemed a hazardous method, yet it was not doubted but the prince would, as his constitution was good, and his life temperate, get well over it. He consented to undergo it; and the *foreign* surgeon performed the operation, which had all the success that could be desired. What still gave further hope, was, that the physicians gained time; an essential point in these cases. But on the nineteenth day in the morning the prince was taken very ill, and fell into a total deprivation of sense, which lasted for twenty four hours, attended with frequent convulsive motions. After this he visibly grew worse, and on the twenty second day in the evening died; after having, since the operation, borne with a wonderful constancy the severest pains. He left only a son, thirteen years old; to whom on his death-bed he gave the best and noblest advice. To *Zelide* he left by his will the greatest part of his fortune, and legacies to all his servants, proportioned to their rank and

and services. His loss was justly and universally regretted ; and his princess, *Zelide*, remained inconsolable.

Sba Sepbi had, during the prince's illness, sent constantly to enquire how he was : and all the grandees, in imitation of the king, did the same. On the nineteenth day, at the height of his crisis, *Daltemo* came early in the *Sopbi*'s name, and having express orders to see the prince, he desired to be introduced to him, notwithstanding the weak condition he was in. *Ibbi*, who then waited on the prince, being informed of it, imagined, that the acquainting his highness with this message might contribute to revive him, and restore him to his senses. With this hope he approached the prince's bed-side, and with a loud voice told him that *Daltemo* was come to speak to him in the name of the *Sopbi* ; but that, considering the state his highness was in, he was going to receive him. The prince, like one rising from a deep sleep, replied, It was not below himself to receive such commands ; and ordered *Daltemo* to be introduced. He immediately entered, and communicated to the prince the king's inquietude as to his health. *Sevagi*, with a presence of mind which astonished all who had seen the condition he was in, intreated *Daltemo* to assure *Sba Sepbi* of his gratitude and fidelity ; and charged him to make his last compliments in the most affectio-

affectionate manner to *Ismael Beg*, to whom he particularly recommended his lady, and the prince his son. Scarce had *Daltemo* left him, when he relapsed into his insensibility, from which he never recovered more. This surprising incident, plainly shews how tenderly the *Sopbi* was beloved by this prince; as the impression so dear a name had made on his mind, could awaken his senses at the moment of their departure.

By the death of *Sevagi*, all the projects of *Sha Sepbi* and *Ismael Beg* were disconcerted. This minister now quitted all his intentions of retiring from business, in order to sacrifice the remainder of his days to the service of his sovereign. His attention to state affairs, did not however make him forget young * *Sevagi*, to whom he continued the same tender regard he had for the father. Of this he gave effectual proofs, but securing him (in spite of the intrigues of those who envied his family) the possession of all the posts which the late prince had held. *Sha Sepbi*, still fond of *Sevagi*'s memory, for two years continued to honour his country seat with his visits. But the disgust given by *Nargum* to some of his favourite domesticks, which has been mentioned before; and an occasion that presented itself to the *Sopbi* of buying a house of pleasure, advantageously seated on the

* The count of *Toulouse*'s son.

the *Zenderan*, some miles from *Ispahan*, put a stop to these excursions.

The *Sopbi* employed all his care in rendering this *villa* worthy the reception and accommodation of a sovereign prince. He made large additions to the buildings, which were too confined. In particular, every one admired a small apartment, contrived under that of the *Sopbi*, with which it had a communication by a secret staircase. This was the lodging of the favourite mistress. The beauty of the sculpture, the richness of the gilding and painting, the elegance of the furniture, and the finest mirrors advantageously placed, heightened its simplicity, and gave it a wonderful air of gallantry and pleasure. In a word, all that art could do appeared in the contrivance, and the finest taste crowned the disposition. The charge of this *villa* was committed to * *Kigon*, a favorite of *Sba Sepbi*, and the son of *Seif*. Here *Sba Sepbi* often retired, with *Retima*, and such persons of his court as he honoured with his familiarity. This place became soon as famous for pleasures, as the little apartments of the palace of *Ispahan*; and was the more agreeable by its rural situation, and the solitude it constantly afforded.

About this time *Mirza Haddi* died; and his death was soon succeeded by that of *Osman*, who was Under-secretary at War: This post was filled by *Ibben* on *Osman's*

* Marshal de *Cogni's* son.

death,

death, as it had been by *Osman*, on the disgrace of the unhappy || *Akabar*.

The same year the **Usbecks* of *Zagathay* lost their king, who was in the fifty second year of his age, and by his temperance and good constitution gave room to hope a longer reign. He was the second king of this country. His father, who had been † *Raja* of *Attock* in the *Mogol Empire*, having with his troops powerfully assisted § *Sba Poledal*, then reigning, obtained from him, by way of recompence, the erection of this territory of *Zagathay* into a kingdom.

The deceased prince, we are speaking of, was of a middle size, inclining to fat; he dressed plainly, or rather coarsely, and lived in the same manner. He was avaricious, spending no money but on his troops, of which he always kept a large body on foot. His humour was to have the tallest men, for which he spared no expence. His time was spent wholly in hunting or reviews. He was arbitrary, and ill beloved by his subjects, and even his own children, whom he treated harshly. Otherwise he was a prince who loved to keep up a good understanding with his neighbours, seldom making war without just grounds; one of great good sense, and who perfectly comprehended his real interest.

With his dominions, his immense trea-

|| *M. le Blanc*. * *The Prussians*. † *Elector* ^{du} *Brandenburgh*. § *The Emperor Leopold*.

fures descended to * *Gion Kan*, his eldest son, then aged but twenty nine. The *Usbecks* were rejoiced at the succession of this prince, whom they passionately loved, and from whom they had conceived the higher expectations, as they knew he had often condemned the severity and avarice of his father. *Gion Kan* had great learning, but was too fond of controversy and disputations. He spent his time usefully, and was an encourager and lover of men of letters. Before his accession, he was mild, affable, complaisant, and generous: but scarce was he inaugurated when all these amiable qualities vanished, and he discovered himself an *ambitious prince*, a *dangerous politician*, an *unsteady ally*, a *restless neighbour*, and a *rigid master*: In a word, a king more tyrannical, and less generous than his predecessor.

In the mean time, *Persia* was wholly taken up with the marriage between the eldest daughter of *Sba Sepbi* and the || son of the emperor of *China*, which was celebrated with all possible solemnity and pomp. The most splendid publick rejoicings, magnificent shows, triumphal arches adorned with devices and inscriptions, and the most sumptuous entertainments, succeeded each other, and for some days served to divert the court and the city, as well as to raise the admiration of strangers, who came from all parts to see this festival.

This

* *Frederick III.* present King of *Prussia*. || *Don Philip*.

This princess was but thirteen, but extremely lovely, and exceeding fair: she had not only an enchanting sweetness, that charmed all who saw her, but a majesty which commanded respect. Nor was she less the delight of the *Chinese*, than she had been of the *Persians*. The prince was about twenty, and with regard to the graces of his person, or the accomplishments of his mind, fell no way short of the princess his bride.

The attention of *Asia* was at this time wholly bent on the war just broke out between * *Gelaleddin*, emperor of *China*, and *Chanavas Kan*, emperor of *Japan*, and *Raja* of *Cabul*, on account of large sums which these monarchs claimed as reciprocally due from each other, and also on pretence of certain violations of treaties. But this was only the specious plea for a rupture, the real cause of which (on the side of *Gelaleddin*) was to strip the *Japanese* of the privilege they had obtained, of trading to the dominions of *China*, which it was said they had abused. The design was also to put a stop to the increasing power of that kingdom, by cutting off the vast riches they gained from this trade. The complaints of the emperor of *China* against the *Japanese* were not altogether groundless: As this nation was very powerful by sea, and had a particular genius for commerce, they had long sought a free entry into the ports of *China*,

* *Philip V.* King of *Spain*.

which

which they were the more earnest to obtain, as they knew *Gelaleddin* seldom granted this indulgence. They however succeeded so far as at least partly to gain their end; for this monarch, who dreaded, by too extensive a license to increase that power which already gave umbrage to most princes of *Asia*, confined his permission to a *single ship*. The *Japanese* however made their own advantage of this, by sending a *vessel* of *such burthen*, that her *cargo* was equivalent to those of several ordinary merchant-ships; And to make amends for the short limits to which the *Chinese* emperor had confined his grant, they had the precaution to station smaller ships by the way, on board of which she delivered her freight; so that she was thus able to make a great many voyages to *China* in a short time. In effect, she was scarce absent, for she no sooner cleared from one port, but she entered another loaded. This method went on for some years, during which the *Japanese* made incredible profit. At last the *Chinese* opened their eyes, and saw how they had been duped. To punish these islanders for their treachery, or rather cunning, *Gelaleddin* threatened to withdraw his grant. The court of *Japan* did all that was possible to ward off this stroke. After several fruitless expedients, the *Japanese* resolved, rather than suffer the loss of their privilege, to exert their
power

power, and preserve by force of arms an advantage they could but lose at the worst.

Such were the motives of a war, that held *Aksa* in suspense, when the *Persian* court received news of the death of * *Sba Ressinc Frola*, emperor of *Mogol*. This prince, who was the thirtieth emperor of his family in a direct line, saw his male line end in himself. He was at his death fifty five years old, twenty nine of which he had reigned, almost always engaged in war, inheriting all the haughtiness, ambition, and thirst of power of his ancestors. He was a refined politician, and an implacable enemy to *Persia*. He was of a dark melancholy temper; gentler to his people than his predecessor, yet arbitrary enough. His government was tyrannical, the common fault of all the emperors of his lineage. His court was splendid, but not polite; his expences shewed a grandeur without magnificence. He was impatient of any advice that contradicted his own ideas of things, and was neither generous nor humane. Before his being emperor, he had given proofs of his courage in the field. Since that time, as he only made war in the cabinet, he seemed to have forgot that the fate of arms is precarious; and that fortune, like an inconstant goddess, often frowns on the most brave and experienced leader. On this principle he punished without mercy, either by death or

* The late emperor *Charles VI*.

imprisonment, such of his generals as were unsuccessful, or defeated: A very impolitic method of forming *commanders* in *chief*. What still heightened this rigour, and rendered it yet more unjust, was, that commonly the orders of that court, with regard to the dispositions necessary for a vigorous campaign, were so slow, or so ill executed, that no *Mogol general* could promise himself a security from disgrace.

The death of this emperor was caused by a surfeit, which carried him off in eight days. By his marriage with * *Selatibeb*, princess of *Vrisknub*, to whom he had been espoused thirty three years, he left only two daughters, viz. *Nigar*, married four years before his decease, to the prince of *Aracam*, and *Remana*, then *unmarried*. This monarch, not foreseeing his own death would happen so soon, had taken no measures to fix his successor in the *empire*. He only shewed some dispositions in favour of his son-in-law, whom he had thoughts of getting elected in his life time; but he had only sounded the † *Rajas* on this head, without any certain determination.

Sba Ressinc Frola was of the house of § *Delly*, which for above three centuries past had filled the *Mogol* throne in such a manner, that tho' by the constitutions of the empire it was elective, they had made it hereditary. By an invariable and steady policy, by several

* *Elizabeth* princess of *Brunswick*.

† The electors.

§ *Austria*.

ral large kingdoms and principalities from time to time annexed to his family, some by succession, some by powerful appropriation, or conquest, and some obtained by treaty, this family had risen to such a formidable degree of power that all the electors dreaded it; especially under the three last emperors; insomuch that in the *general assemblies* held to deliberate on affairs, the members durst not give their opinions contrary to the emperor's sentiments or orders. Thus the publick liberty groaned under a tyranny the more despotic and unjust, as these princes knew the constitution they infringed; and tho' before their coronation they were bound by the most sacred oaths to preserve these rights, they daily studied how to elude the obligation, and misinterpret his sense.

The kingdom of * *Golconda* was made hereditary by † *Shah Poledol*, who caused his son to be crowned king in his presence, in an assembly of the states, which he summoned to the *capital town* for form only. By his meer authority he abrogated at this time all the solemnities, which for seven ages together had been constantly observed at the election of their kings. This violence caused a general insurrection, which occasioned an obstinate war for some years, and ended in that nation's totally losing their liberty. In the same manner this prince treated the principality of § *Balagnets*, which he reduced to

* *Hungary*. † *Emperor Leopold*. § *Transilvania*. an

an hereditary province ; by this means he also stripped one * *Raja* of his dignity, and added another to the usual number ; both without the consent or participation of the *states* of the *empire*, to whom both the right of *divestment* and *creation* belonged by the laws. By the same despotic authority he erected † *Zagathay* into a kingdom.

§ *Seipho* his successor, yet more violent and arbitrary, looked on the kingdom of || *Jenupar* as his hereditary domain, and assumed the title of king, without being either elected or crowned by the states of that country, who however recognized him without any opposition ; by which they seemed to renounce their ancient constitution, which had always been elective. This privilege they had at least retained for four centuries, and is now esteemed as one of the fundamental laws of the *empire*. This same monarch *Seipho*, in his private council, proscribed the *Rajas* of ||| *Multan* and *Visapour*, the head of the latter being proclaimed and set at a price. He tore also with his own hands the copy of the act, which his father *Sba Poledol* had granted to invest them in their dignity, throwing the fragments at his feet. After this he seized on their dominions, which he treated like conquered countries. He caused the children of the *Raja* of *Visapour* to be
car-

* Elector Palatine. † *Prussia*. § Emperor *Joseph*.
|| *Bohemia*. ||| Electors of *Cologne* and *Bavaria*.

carried off, and secured in a strong fortress, forbidding them to assume the name of their family. He usurped the territories of several rightful heirs, sold those of others no way belonging to him, and committed unheard of oppressions and acts of violence, both within and out of the empire.

Sba Reffinc Frola, at his accession to the crown, had no regard to the remonstrances of the *Golcondese*, to have their rights and privileges restored. Their chief demand was, that the succession of their crown should not for the future be transferred to the female line of the imperial family. He formed a design of appropriating to himself the dominions and sovereignties of the *Rajas* of *Multan* and *Visapour*, which his predecessor had invaded, and which *he* kept some time in his possession. He caused the new *Raja* his father had created, to be acknowledged. He engaged the *empire* in his personal quarrels, and to crown all, made the *august assembly* of it solemnly guarantee and swear to the execution of the *edict* by which (two years after his accession to the imperial dignity) he thought proper to regulate the order of succession in his hereditary estates. This decree, by his authority, he got to be received as an *imperial law*, and had the satisfaction to see it confirmed by most of the *Asiatick* powers.

The substance of this edict, registered in the imperial archives, as a perpetual and irrevocable

revocable law, was, “ That in case *Sha*
 “ *Reffinc Frola* died without male heirs, the
 “ eldest of his daughters (still observing
 “ the order and right of indivisible primo-
 “ geniture) should succeed in all his king-
 “ doms, provinces and estates; which should
 “ never, on any account, be divided or se-
 “ parated in favour of those of the second,
 “ or any other line or branch, or otherwise
 “ on any account whatsoever: the same or-
 “ der and right of indivisible primogeniture
 “ being to subsist in all cases, and at all
 “ times and ages equally, whenever the
 “ question should arise about the succession
 “ to the kingdoms, provinces, and heredi-
 “ tary estates of this *emperor*.”

The inheritance of this prince was immense: Exclusive of the kingdoms of * *Golconda* and *Jenupar*, and the principalities of † *Delly*, *Sambal*, *Backer* and *Bengal*; he held the countries of *Candis*, *Baleguete*, *Telenga*, *Carnatica* and ‖ *Patna*, with several § other sovereignties and lordships. Immediately on his death, *Nagar* his eldest daughter was proclaimed queen of *Golconda* and *Jenupar*, and sovereign princess of *Delly*, and all the hereditary provinces which belonged to her father, in consequence of the before-mentioned settlement. She was not only acknowledged by all her subjects, and by the *Rajas*, but also by the greatest part of the *Asiatic* powers. The *Raja*
 F of

* *Hungary* and *Bohemia*. † *Austria*. ‖ The other Dominions of the House of *Austria*, in *Germany*, *Italy*, and the *Low Countries*. § See *Gent. Mag.* v. IV. Index.

of * *Visapour* alone refused to own her, on account of his pretensions to the late emperor's succession, which he resolved to maintain, and which were founded on antient family compacts, and especially the will of the emperor *Seppar Kan I.* who had reigned two hundred years before, which ordained,
 “ that the princess his eldest daughter, who
 “ should be alive at the time of his death,
 “ should succeed to the kingdoms of *Gol-*
 “ *conda* and *Junepar*, and his other domi-
 “ nions, in case his three brothers left no
 “ male children.”

By another clause of the same will, this prince declared, “ That all his hereditary e-
 “ states of *Delly*, and their dependencies,
 “ should, in case of the extinction of his law-
 “ ful male heirs, belong to his brother and his
 “ heirs male, as the only and lawful suc-
 “ cessors, --- except such of his daughters
 “ as should succeed in his kingdoms, and
 “ possess them.” By a codicil annexed to the said will four years after, he confirmed this disposition, and expressly declared, that
 “ in the case in question the kingdoms of
 “ *Golconda* and *Jenupar* should fall to the
 “ eldest of his daughters who should be
 “ alive at his decease.” This emperor had married his eldest daughter to the *Raja* of *Visapour*, from whom descends the family now reigning; and from whom they de-
 right

rive their pretensions from the succession of *Sba Ressinc Frola*. To this plea the princess *Nagar* reply'd, that the article of the will produced by the *Raja* of *Visapour* was not agreeable to the original will, the words of which were not---“in case of failure of *heirs male*, but in case of failure of *lawful heirs*.” That in consequence of this disposition, agreeable to the right of nature and nations, she had an undoubted preference to every claimant whatsoever, as the eldest daughter of the last surviving male. Besides it was certain, that in case of a succession from which females were not excluded, they ought to be comprized under the name of lawful heirs.

The *Raja* of *Visapour*, was not the sole pretender. The king of * *Necbal* laid claim to the principality of † *Bengal*. The emperor of *China* pleaded a family compact, signed 123 years before, in the capital of the kingdom of *Jenupar*, between the emperors of *Mogol* and *China* then reigning, by which the latter yielded to the former the succession to the states of *Bacar*, *Sambal*, and several provinces, on condition, however, that if the male line of that *Mogol* should fail, the countries so ceded should return to the *Chinese* monarch and his posterity, so that the female heirs of that line should exclude the posterity of the *Mogol*. Whence it was inferr'd that the princes and princesses issue by the wife of *Sba Abbas the Great*, (which

queen descended from the emperor of *China*, who made this agreement) had a right to the imperial succession preferably to the daughters of *Sba Poledol* and his successors.

The king of *Zagathay* also appeared as a competitor. As *Raja* of *Attock*, he revived the incontestable rights his family had to the estates and country of *Bacar*, founded on antient family treaties and alliances between the *Rajas* of *Attock* and the princes of *Bacar*, as well as other claims. In consequence of his pretensions he entered that province with a numerous army, where he found little resistance, as having kept his enterprize a secret till the moment of execution, so that *Nagar* had no time to put herself in a posture of defence. This step of the king of *Zagathay* was the more surprizing to all *Asia*, as he had just given *Nagar* the strongest assurances of his attachment to her interests, and his sincere dispositions for preserving the peace of the empire. He thought it a sufficient justification of his conduct to declare, that the conjuncture, and the just fears he had of seeing his designs prevented by such as pretended to the late emperor's succession, required such a speediness in the enterprize, and such a strictness of executing it, that it allowed him no time to explain himself beforehand with the queen of *Golconda*: That his design in marching an army into *Bacar*, was only to secure that province from any attacks of

§ *Brandenburg.* § *Silesia.*

the

the pretenders to the imperial succession, who might have seized on it by force, at a time that *Asia* seemed threaten'd with a general war; and that in doing this he had no intention to disoblige the queen of *Golconda*, with whom on the contrary he earnestly desir'd to maintain a strict friendship, and to contribute all in his power to her real interest and preservation.

Notwithstanding these fair protestations the king of *Zagathay* soon after entered into a joint treaty with *Persia*, and the *Rajas* of *Visapour* and *Lahor*, the intention of which was no less than to strip the queen of *Golconda*. The march of his troops was only the signal of a general war, which soon inflam'd all *Asia*.

In the mean time the choice of a *Mogol* to succeed *Sba Ressinc Frola*, set all the powers in agitation, particularly *Persia*, who was highly concern'd, to procure the imperial crown to be given to a prince who would be, in some sort, at her devotion. This inclined her principally to support the *Raja* of *Visapour*, whose family had at all times espoused the cause of the *Sophis*. The great misfortunes which its alliance with *Persia* had brought on it, and the recent calamities that country had suffer'd, well deserved that *Sba Sephi* should at this conjuncture give essential marks of his gratitude and attachment to *Sba Baskan*, then *Raja* of *Visapour*. But

before we relate what the *Sophi* did in favour of this prince, it will be proper to give the reader some idea of the *Mogol* empire, its constitution and state, as well as that of the rest of *Asia* at the death of *Sba Reffinc Frola*.

This vast and powerful empire, which had for a long time been hereditary, is now become elective. It contains several states, governed by * *Rajás*, subordinate indeed to the emperor, but who share the sovereignty of the empire with the † *Omrahs*, and several considerable free cities. These compose three classes, which united form the body of the empire; to this assembly belongs the right of deciding all affairs which relate to the publick. The emperor has only the power of calling these assemblies together, and making his proposals by his commissioners, who preside there in his name.

The empire is divided into several large provinces, whose princes, the *Omrahs*, and the deputies of the cities which are called *Imperial*, assemble at certain times for particular affairs. These provinces contribute to the charge of the state of which they are members, by furnishing their quotas of troops and money in proportion to their ability. But these contingents can only be applied to the publick service; for if the emperor should engage in a war no way relating to the empire, or that is not in a general assembly declared an imperial war, he has no claim to these

* Electors. † The College of Princes.

these supplies, nor can demand any assistance from the provinces; but must carry on, at his own charge, and with his own troops, a war which is regarded only as personal. For this reason it is, that the *Rajas* take particular care always to place the imperial crown on the head of a prince powerful and rich enough to support the dignity.

The *Rajas*, who have the sole power of electing the emperor, are those of **Guzarate*, *Buckor*, *Multan*, *Jenupar*, *Visapour*, *Labor*, *Attock*, *Brampour*, and *Cabul*. Of these nine *Rajas* the three first have only an active voice, *i. e.* they may elect, but cannot be elected, whereas the last six have both an active and passive voice, *i. e.* they can both elect, and be elected themselves. The dignity of *Raja* with regard to these last is hereditary from male to male, but with regard to the three former it only belongs for life to the person whom the lords of the country raise to that dignity, which is a privilege peculiar to the states of *Guzarate*, *Buckor* and *Multan*; the dignity of *Raja* is, however, in all cases inseparable from the principality which gives name to it. Each of these *Rajas* is absolute sovereign in his own dominions, and can make war or peace, alliances and treaties, either within or without the empire, with whom he pleases, provided the emperor and empire receive no detriment by it.

In the vacancy of the imperial throne it

Belongs to the *Raja* of *Guzarate* to summon the rest of the *Rajas* to proceed to the election of a new emperor. This election is null, if, either thro' inadvertence or design, he should neglect to invite one elector. But if the emperor during his life has named his successor, in that case the *Raja* of *Guzarate* can issue no summons without the consent of all his *Collegues*, who in this case are the representative body of the empire.

|| *Amadabat*, an imperial town, is the place fix'd for the diets of election. The candidate must be indispensably a male, a § *Mogol*, if possible, by birth, or at least extraction, and of a competent age. He should be good, just, prudent, and valiant, in short, endow'd with all the virtues which make a prince useful to the state, and, to sum up all, he should be rich and powerful, to support with distinction the imperial crown he is to wear.

By the edict of * *Salcher* IV. the *Rajas* ought to assist in person at this election, or at least to send thither their proxies with full powers; and in case of failure, they were to forfeit, for that time only, their right of voting. The election should also be made in the space of a month, reckoning from the day in which the *Rajas* were sworn.

As soon as the election is over, the new emperor is made to sign the conditions on which he is elected, and sworn to observe them; after which he is proclaimed. These

|| *Francfort.* § *German.*
* *Charles* the IVth's *Golden Bull.*

conditions contain the regulations made to limit his power, to prevent his pretending to any hereditary succession in the empire, or procuring it either for himself or his descendants, or any other person ; and lastly to maintain the privileges in possession of the *Rajas*, and the rights and liberties of the empire. On the day of his coronation he takes a new oath to preserve the rights, and recover the lands of the empire, and to employ them faithfully for the publick service.

By the laws and constitutions of the empire, the emperor cannot, without the general consent of the states, punish any *Rajah*, *Omrab*, or other particular members of the imperial body, either by confiscating their estate, or depriving them of their right of sitting and voting in the assembly. He cannot mortgage or alienate the possessions of the empire, or dispose of the principal vacant fiefs. He can neither declare or make war within or without the empire, or conclude peace or alliances, besides many other things too tedious to relate, without the publick approbation. But, these cases excepted, he acts with full power, and sovereign authority.

At the death of *Sba Ressinc Frola*, || *Nabal Akel Kan*, descended of an antient and noble family, was *Raja* of *Guzarate* ; a dignity, to which his merit had raised him some years before. His place, which was the first in the class of *Rajas*, gave him a very exten-

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five

|| The late Elector of *Mintz*.

five credit and authority, which he solely employed for the good of the empire, to preserve peace and unity between its members, and to give the state a head worthy to command it. He had justly gained not only the esteem and friendship of the deceased emperor, but that of all the empire, and even of *Persia*, with whom the situation of his dominions required he should preserve a good understanding. As he was no warrior, he kept only a few troops on foot by way of garisons. He perfectly understood the interests of the empire, and in the assemblies was so respected and confided in, on account of his age and experience, that his advices were generally heard and follow'd.

The *Raja* of || *Buckor*, who held the second rank, was called *Nali Kan*. His nobility of birth, and personal qualities had procur'd him this dignity. He was a sincere affable prince, and whatever bials he discovered for the house of § *Delly*, he generally seconded the views of the *Raja* of *Guzarate*.

† *Abdalla Kan*, the third in the class of *Rajas*, was of the house of *Visapour*, and had succeeded one of his uncles in the dignity of *Raja* of *Multan*. He had a great and generous soul, was a magnificent prince, zealous for the interests of his family, and closely united with his brother, the *Raja* of *Visapour*, by which he was often led to oppose the designs of the late emperor, whose des-
spotie

spotic power these two princes bore not without impatience.

The fourth *Raja* was he of * *Junepar*, a dignity which *Sha Ressinc Frola* enjoyed as annexed to his possession of that crown, and which consequently became vacant on his death.

|| *Sha Baskan*, *Raja* of *Visapour*, of which country his family had been an age in possession, held the fifth place. This prince was tall, of a spare visage, had fine eyes, and a gracious look; his nose was long, and his mouth inclining to large; in short, he was not what is called a handsome man, but he was a prince of great goodness and affability, of an amiable disposition, and mild temper. He was generous, grateful, constant in his friendship, and faithful to his engagements; he was reckoned not to have great skill in war, nor a genius of the first class. Tho' his relation to *Sha Ressinc Frola*, whose niece he had married, might seem to incline him to the house of *Delly*, yet the good of the empire, his own interest, and perhaps the remembrance of the injuries his ancestors had sustained from that family, often made him side with the party which opposed the late emperor.

The sixth *Rajah* was the prince of § *Labor*; his name was *Selim Kan*, and he was also married to another niece of the late emperor. He was tall, had a good face, but was round-shoulder'd,

* *Bohemia*. || The late Elector of *Bavaria*, afterwards Emperor. § *Poland*.

shoulder'd, and excessively corpulent for his age; he was good-natured, magnificent, generous, and easy of access. Notwithstanding the alliance he had contracted with *Persia*, the *Raja* of *Visapour*, and the king of *Zagathay* against the queen of *Golconda*, he was rather inclined to peace than war; and even tho' he had been of a contrary party, yet his own interest, on account of the position of his dominions, which were bounded by those of the house of *Delly*, as well as the affection of the grandees of his kingdom of *Thibet* to that family, required him to conduct himself with great caution.

Gion Kan, *Raja* of † *Attock*, and king of *Zagathay*, was the seventh. The character we have already given of this prince, and his invasion of the province of * *Bacar*, just on the death of *Sba Ressinc Frola*, are sufficient to shew his policy, and his real regard to the house of *Delly*. We shall only add, that this prince, vain of his power, seemed to have forgot that *Sba Poledol* had invested his grandfather with the title of king of *Zagathay*, or perhaps he thought himself freed from all obligations of gratitude for a service so old, or concluded that without doubt it had been sufficiently acknowledged by his two predecessors.

The eighth was the *Raja* of § *Brampour*, called *Ast Kan*. The neighbourhood of *Persia*, which, on the least provocation, could in-

† *Poland*. † *Brandenburg*.
* *Silisia*. § *Electeur Palatine*.

vade his dominions, as well as his being in the same situation with regard to the territories of the house of * *Delly*, obliged him to carry matters very even between these two powers, with whom it was so visibly his interest to keep on good terms. However, at certain junctures, especially in the war which *Sba Ressinc Frola* entered into with *Persia*, the emperor of *China*, and the king of *Necbal*, this prince, regarding it as a personal quarrel of the *Mogol's*, remained neuter.

The last of the *Rajas* was the prince of *Cabul*, *Chanavas Kan*. He was the third of his family who held this dignity, which *Sba Podedol* had, by his sole authority, erected in favour of the *Katzem* of *Vrisknub*, his grandfather, on this singular condition, that neither he nor his descendants should ever give their voice at an imperial election, but to a prince of the house of *Delly*. *Chanavas Kan* was so wholly devoted to this family, that after the death of *Sba Ressinc Frola* he used his utmost interest for its support. The alliance of this prince was the more serviceable to the *Q* of *Golconda*, as by his influence the *Japanese*, whose emperor he was, not only aided this princess with large sums of money, but in the end openly declared for her. This step they took the more readily, as it gave them an occasion to quarrel with the *Persians*, their antient and implacable enemies. Perhaps also, in this conjuncture, that nation acted like a credi-

* *Austria*.

creditor, who being largely out of pocket, is willing to venture a little further, in hopes of being paid at last, or, if not, of seizing all his debtor's estates, at least such part of them as lie most convenient for him. However this be, it is matter of surprize how *Chanavas Kan* could bend so far to his views the *Japanese*, a people known to be intractable, and regardless of their kings, jealous of their liberty, and greatly dissatisfied with the government of their present emperor, on account of his frequent visits to his principality of *Cabul*. Yet this monarch had found the secret to rule this aristo-democratic limited monarchy more absolutely than any of his predecessors, being refused nothing he desired. This was owing to the policy and skill of his ministers, who procured him an active authority in the second class of the senate, which is the most numerous, by introducing into this assembly a great number of persons devoted to the court, and who, indebted to the emperor for their fortunes or posts, always declared for him, and gave him a majority by their votes. Some members the ministry gained by menaces, but the greatest part by the hope of rewards.

This prince was rather of a low than tall stature, had a haughty look, and an unpromising air. Tho' his conduct was agreeable enough to good policy, and the interest of his people, yet he was a man of no great capacity.

capacity. He meddled little with affairs, leaving them, like most other princes, to his ministers. He disobliged many, even of his family and children, the eldest of whom was a prince so beloved by a great part of the *Japanese* nation, that he might have raised a formidable party, if he had inclined to have made use of their affections, and followed the dangerous counsels of his flatterers, at the time of the misunderstanding between his father and him. *Chanavas Kan* had some little taste for gallantry, but no genius for great things. Tho' he had appeared at the head of armies, he was no general. His character was ambiguous, neither lively nor indolent, neither proud nor affable, and rather grave than gay. His court was not so splendid on account of his own magnificence or expence, as by that of the *Japanese* nobility, who for the most part are very rich, and love to make a figure.

Besides these nine *Rajas* there were in the empire several || *Omrabs*, whose power rendered their alliance and friendship courted, and several imperial towns, who had an influence on public affairs. As to the rest, the *Mogolians* in general, weary of the tyranny of the house of *Delly*, rejoiced to see themselves, by the death of *Sba Reshinc Frola*, restored to their antient rights, and at liberty to chuse a prince, on whom they might impose such

terms

|| Princes.

terms as would secure them the enjoyment of their privileges and freedom.

The throne of * *China* was then filled by || *Gelaleddin*, a prince advanced in years, and who, like the *Sopbi* of *Persia*, to whom he was nearly related, had no inclination to business. He was a good, pacifick, humane prince, and his reign would have been entirely happy, if he had not suffered himself to be too much sway'd by his empress. She was a princess of a vast genius, haughty, proud, ambitious, enterprizing, positive in her opinion, fond of power, and resolved, at any rate, to form sovereign establishments for her children; a princess, in short, more universally dreaded than beloved by all the courts of *Asia*. *Gelaleddin* and *Sba Sepbi*, who had just cemented their alliance by the marriage of the eldest *Persian* princess with *Negeddin* prince of *China* by the second bed, had the same views and interests. Besides, the emperor of *China*, as we have said, had pretensions on the succession of *Sba Ressinc Frola*.

§ *Olabi*, eldest son to *Gelaleddin* by his present empress, reigned in *Cochinchina*. He was the more bound to live in good intelligence with *Persia*, as it had assisted not a little to settle him on the throne. This prince, tho' young, ruled with wisdom and moderation, and, what adds to his praise is, that he was beloved by his subjects, an inconstant,

* *Spain*. || *Philip V.* § *Don Carlos K. of Naples*.

stant, restless nation, and difficult to be governed. In secret he was an enemy to the house of *Delly*, but his dominions lying exposed to be invaded by the queen of *Golconda* and her allies, this consideration left him long in suspense as to taking part with *Persia* and *China*. Besides *Selim Kan*, king of *Thibet*, and *Raja* of *Labor*, whose daughter he had married, inspired him with pacific notions.

Sba Askeri, who reigned in † *Corea*, had married a sister of the late *Mogol*, and had formed some claim to the imperial succession, which was likely to embroil him with the queen of *Golconda*. But the dread he had of the *Japanese* power at sea, whose fleets were able to insult his coasts, kept him from declaring openly. Besides, there was no dependance on this monarch, who was a little disordered in his understanding.

The kingdom of || *Necbal* was possessed by *Korsula*, prince of * *Jesova*. Tho' we have spoken of this prince on occasion of the abdication of his father *Koturi*, and the war he carried on against *Sba Resinc Frola*, in conjunction with *China* and *Persia*, his conduct at this juncture obliges us to mention him again. This monarch, who had lately married a sister of the prince of § *Aracam*, husband to the queen of *Golconda*, was earnestly courted by this princess to espouse his cause. The offers she made him to give up a considerable

† *Portugal.* || *Sardinia.* * *Savoy.* § *Tuscany.*

fiderable part of the principality of * *Bengal*,
 to which he laid some claim, might have de-
 termined him ; but, on the other hand, the
 propofals fent him by *China* and *Persia* held
 him in fufpense. To weigh matters rightly,
 it feemed moft natural he fhould embrace the
 fide of the queen of *Golconda*, who had it in
 her power immediately to put into his hands
 the advantages ſhe offered him. But, war
 once declared, he was apprehenſive that the
 combined armies of *China* and *Persia* might
 not only diſpoſſeſs him of the territories ſo
 yielded to him, but even of his hereditary
 dominions. This prince therefore, like an
 able politician, ſpun out the negotiations, to
 gain time, and declare according to the turn
 affairs might take. In the mean while, he ſaw
 himſelf courted by both parties, and per-
 haps he had at laſt joined his antient allies a-
 gainſt the queen of *Golconda*, if the emperor
 of *Japan* had not determined him in favour
 of that princeſs, by the offer of large ſums
 under the name of ſubſidies, and aſſurances of
 troops for the defence of his dominions.
 Thus this prince, who, like his father, lov'd
 to fiſh in troubled waters, did not declare
 openly, till he found his advantage real. If
 the empreſs of || *China* had on her ſide ſooner
 granted *Korſula* the ſhare he demanded in the
 countries to be conquered from the queen of
Golconda, this blow might have been warded
 off. But the views ſhe entertained on theſe
 terri-

* The *Milaneſe*. || The Queen of *Spain*.

territories for erecting a kingdom for her second † son, son-in-law to the *Sopbi*, made her, contrary to good policy, obstinate not to yield, what she run no hazard of promising, as it was not yet her own.

Russia had then for emperor an infant at the breast, whose father, in quality of regent, held the administration. The queen of *Golconda* was the more sure of the friendship of this potent empire, as the regent and ministry were all devoted to the house of *Delly*.

Dabur of Hasselcresse reigned in || *Falekeldar*, and *Mohadi* in § *Balck*. These two princes saw with uneasiness the fermentation which the death of *Sba Ressinc Frola* caused in the different courts of *Asia*, where every thing betokened an approaching war, which they wished might be avoided.

Mahmoud was then emperor of the *Tarks*; but, whatever inclination he might have to hurt the house of *Delly*, he was too fully employed in the defence of his own dominions, to intermeddle with the affairs of the † *Mogol* empire.

After the different princes we have mentioned, the **Ceylinese* made the greatest figure in *Asia*, and were the most courted by the different powers. Their government is republican, but the power of the state is invested in a certain number of deputies, named by each province, who represent the whole people, and act in their name: but as

† Don *Philip*.

each

|| *Sweden*. § *Denmark*. † *Germany*. * *The Dutch*.

each province is free, and at liberty to take its own measures, as well as regulate its own government, those who are at the head of affairs can determine nothing in cases of importance, till they consult their respective provinces, and receive their orders. The opposition of a single province is sufficient to reject what is proposed, or to stop the execution of what is resolved. Besides this, the grand assembly, invested with the supreme power, is composed of such a number of men of different characters, that it is scarce possible they should all agree unanimously in their zeal for the public good. It is easy to see the numberless inconveniencies to which this kind of government is subject, and how practicable it is, by fomenting a disunion between these deputies, to prejudice the state itself. It is even matter of wonder that this republic has subsisted so long; the different shocks it has received, since the *Ceylanese*, two hundred years ago, withdrew themselves from the *Chinese* domination, and erected themselves into a commonwealth; the continual disunion which reigns in this great assembly; the discontent of the people, which has often broke out into insurrections; the care taken to exclude from the government men of capacity and experience; and above all the want of a chief or head, whose quality might give authority and weight to the state: all these symptoms seem to prophesy, that

that this republic cannot long preserve its present form of government, the rather as it has lately received some alterations, which, tho' seemingly inconsiderable, yet have secretly hurt its original constitution.

The conduct of the sovereigns of this state, on the death of *Sba Reffinc Frola*, appeared as unaccountable to some, as prudent to others. They kept fair with the court of *Persia*, with which they had no mind to embroil themselves; they equally took care to please the house of *Delly*, the emperor of *Japan*, and all the parties concerned. Indeed it was of the last importance to them to preserve the peace of *Asia*, since a war could not but be greatly prejudicial to their commerce, which was very extensive, and the greatest support of their dominions, which did not produce, by far, the necessary subsistence for the prodigious number of its inhabitants. Their subjects are all traders, and in some degree the factors of all *Asia*, whose universal magazine their capital seems to be. The wealth brought in by this vast traffick, as it enriches private people, so it renders the state opulent and great. As all these advantages were hazarded by a war, it was of the last consequence to them, to use all means to prevent one; but it was difficult to manage so, as to please parties of such opposite interests. *Persia* and its allies insisted on the division of the late emperor's succession, and on the depressing the
power

power of the house of *Delly*, to which the extinction of the male line in the person of *Sba Ressinc Frola* gave a fatal blow; *Persia*, also, resolved to procure the imperial scepter for the *Raja* of *Visapour*. On many accounts it was indifferent to the *Ceylanese*, tho' this prince should be elected emperor, but their interest visibly led them to support the house of *Delly*, and to preserve the dominions of the late emperor entire to the queen of *Golconda*, on account of the large sums due to them from that family, as security for which they held several towns in *Feldrans*, which lay conveniently to secure their frontiers on that side. To declare against the queen of *Golconda*, was to expose themselves to the loss of their pledges, the rather, as in this case the *Japanese*, who long wanted a footing in the neighbourhood of *Persia* and *Mogol*, might by advancing this princess the principal money to pay the *Ceylanese*, get possession of their security. It was the more necessary to prevent this, as the power of *Japan* began to give such umbrage to the *Ceylanese*, as made them of all things dread their neighbourhood. Another motive which kept the states of *Ceylan* attached to this queen, was the offensive and defensive treaties of alliance subsisting between them and the courts of *Delly* and *Japan*. Besides, the *Japanese* lorded it at sea, and by this means had it in their power to hurt the trade of *Ceylan* greatly, to
which

which in a late war, that was not favourable to the republic, the *Japanese* did a considerable prejudice, by depriving them of the power of trading from *Ceylan* to *Japan*, unless in *Japanese* vessels.

To perform, therefore, their engagements with the house of *Delly*, and *Japan*, the sovereigns of *Ceylan* ordered vast preparations of war by sea and land; but at the same time, to prevent a breach with *Persia* and her allies, these preparations went on so slowly, that it was easy to perceive they were made only to answer in appearance the obligations of those treaties, which served them as an excuse at the court of *Persia*, against any reproaches. In the mean time, by remaining allied to the queen of *Golconda*, they exposed themselves to see the towns engaged to them by the house of *Delly* taken by the arms of *Persia*; since, as she continued still sovereign of them, *Persia* would naturally commence hostilities against this princess, by attacking the places belonging to her, tho' even garisoned by *Ceylanese* troops. The event shewed the truth of this conjecture.

While the || sovereigns of *Ceylan* behaved with such caution, many of their subjects, ill affected to the *Persian* ministry, openly blamed their conduct. In all conversations nothing was heard but censures on the government, expressions of affection to the
queen

|| The States General of the *United Provinces*.

queen of *Golconda*, and reproaches against her enemies. The persons in the administration took little notice of this ; they were not ignorant, that these discourses were generally held at night, especially after a hearty glass. They thought the least that could be done, was to leave free liberty of speech to merchants, whose industry was the support of the state, and who only thus, over an evening bottle, made amends for the fatigues of the day. They knew, these reflections would be forgot next day as soon as business called them up, with which the *Ceylinese* suffered no other consideration to come in competition.

|| *Tunquin*, another potent and wealthy republic, tho' of small extent, was little inferior to *Ceylan*. The administration in this country is committed to a certain number of the nobility, and governed by a § chief, who has no power, but jointly with the supreme council, independent of which is a supreme tribunal of ten citizens, upright, disinterested, and thoroughly acquainted with the laws and constitution of the state ; this tribunal keeps in awe both the nobility and people. This form of government is of great antiquity, and having been always supported by wisdom and moderation has raised this republic to its present opulence and power. The *Tunquinese*, directed by the same wise maxims, seemed no way inclined to share in the war, to which the death of *Sba Reffine*
Frcla

|| *Venice*. § *The Doge*.

Frola was about to expose all *Asia*. Careful only to secure their frontiers from insults, they remained spectators of the event.

The **Kalmoucs*, who form a numerous people, scattered in the inaccessible mountains of *Asia*, a warlike, frugal nation, exempt from the *Asiatic* luxury, and the ambition of extending their power, were also courted on this occasion. They are divided into different *Cantons*, independent on each other, each under his own government, but all uniting together for their common safety and interest. They preserve a good understanding with all the *Asiatic* princes, to whom they furnish indifferently troops for ready money. A policy that eases their country, which is barren, of useless hands, and brings them in returns of money, which, without this kind of traffick, would be scarce with them. These people also resolve to keep a strict neutrality, and like the *Tunquinese*, only took care to secure their frontiers.

There were also the principalities of § *Aracam*, || *Ava*, and several smaller states, which by their situation were involved in the agitation of the larger countries, on which they bordered, or in which they lay.

Such was the situation of *Asia*, on the death of *Sba Ressinc Frola*. In the mean time the *Rajas*, in compliance with the invitation of the *Raja* of *Guzarate*, prepared to set out for *Amadabat*, to proceed to the e-

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lection

* The Switzers. § Tuscany. || The Milaneze.

lection of a head of the *Mogol* empire. This important affair set all powers in motion; *Persia* in particular made vast levies of men, and erected prodigious magazines on her frontiers. In the mean time she prepared to send an embassador to *Amadabat*, as was always customary for her to do on these solemn occasions.

There was then in the *Persian* court a person called * *Scadeck*, a man of great genius, and of equal ambition. He was advanced in years, and had passed all his life in the profession of arms, having studied war as a science. He was brave, sometimes to excess, and was an able and experienced general. Tho' he fatigued the soldiery by frequent reviews, and continual exercise, he was well beloved by them, because he increased their pay, by employing them in labour in the places of his government, and supported them from being oppressed by the inferior officers, whom he was taxed of treating with too much disregard. He was active, positive in his way of thinking, full of projects, and taught by his merit to aspire at the highest command in the army, in which, notwithstanding his great capacity, he had risen but slowly. His birth was derived from an illustrious, tho' not an ancient family, his grandfather having been employed in the ministry, and died in disgrace. This misfortune diminished the credit of the family,

* Marſhal De Belleſſe.

mily, yet, as it was rich, it supported itself, and *Scadeck*, who was become the head of it, was well received at court. He was a man who would know every thing, and neglected nothing to be well informed of the power and weakness of all the *Asiatic* princes and states. This curiosity, joined to an extensive correspondence, created him so much business, that he daily employed six secretaries. He was enterprizing, not without enemies; and was thought by many not to chuse the most likely means to render his schemes successful. He had a brother some years younger than himself, an officer in the *Persian* troops, no way his inferior in point of capacity, but more solid and judicious. He examined every thing coolly, and before he undertook any project, consulted how to go thro' with it. The two Brothers lived in close union, and the elder always took the advice of the younger, which, ('tis said) was often of great service to him.

Scadeck, such as we have just described him, is said to have first projected, and communicated to the *Athematdoulet*, the grand scheme, not only to procure the *Mogol* crown for the *Raja* of *Visapour*, by gaining some of the principal *Rajas* to his interest, and intimidating others, but likewise to give a mortal blow to the house of *Delly*, by taking away its most considerable possessions, and settling them on * *Sba Baskan*, whose territories were too small to support the im-

* The Elector of *Bavaria*. G 2 perial

perial dignity. He represented that for this end it would be necessary to make choice of such a person for the embassy of *Amadabat*, as was perfectly acquainted with the different characters of the *Rajas*, capable of accommodating himself to their different tempers, and sufficiently skilled in the affairs of the empire, to convince them that it was their true interest to come into the measures of the court of *Persia*. But effectually to support these negotiations, and ruin the house of *Delly* for ever, it was necessary to march an army of 100,000 men into the states of the *Raja* of *Visapour*, which under the name of auxiliaries, and on pretence of assisting him to make good his just claims upon the succession of *Sba Ressinc Frola*, should seize the principality of *Delly*, and the kingdom of *Jenupar*, the best provinces of the queen of *Golconda*, and awe the *Rajas* and princes of those parts, who should incline to the interests of that princess. At the same time he proposed that another army, of at least 40,000 men, should march into the estates of the *Raja* of *Multan*, to protect him against his neighbours, and to be ready at hand to enter into the principality of * *Cabul*, of which the emperor of *Japan* (who was known to espouse the cause of the house of *Delly*) was *Raja*; and, above all, to secure to their interest the king of *Zagathav*, whose late irruption into the province

* *Hanover*.

of

of *Bacar* was a powerful diversion, which it was highly necessary they should improve. That in the mean time the emperor of *China* should, jointly with the king of *Cochinchina*, his son, attack the country which the queen of *Golconda* possessed near the *Ganges*. But that the success of this affair, which would not last longer than six months, if this plan was exactly followed, intirely depended upon the promptness of the execution, and a profuse liberality of money.

Ismael Beg relished this project; but the expence of two armies, amounting to no less than 140,000, besides the charges of the embassy, frightened him. Besides, he was too short-sighted to see that the invasion of the states of the queen of *Golconda* should be done at once, which was absolutely necessary, for otherwise the enemy would have time to make such dispositions, as would prevent the conquests proposed, or at least render them too dearly bought. However, he approved the plan, reserving to himself the power of making such alterations in it, as suited with his own œconomy, and way of thinking. The author of it was in the mean time rewarded with the title of ambassador to the assembly of *Amadabat*, honoured also with the grand *Calaat*, and had immense sums remitted to him. He had orders to sound the *Rajas*, and the princes of the *Mogol* empire, with whom it was expedient

dient to form alliances, and to spare neither promises nor money to gain them to his interest, to concert with the *Raja* of *Visapour* the operations of the war, planned by the scheme ; and, lastly, to confer with the king of *Zagathay* for the good of the common cause. *Scadeck* neglected nothing which could give splendor to his embassy, and even carried the magnificence of it to such a height, that it was said *Amadabat* never saw any thing so grand, nor so numerous and elegant a retinue. To give some idea of his prodigious expence, it is sufficient to say, that there set out every week from *Isfahan* two waggons loaded with provisions for *Amadabat*, where they arrived in a few days, by means of fresh horses, placed at proper distances on the road ; and this was continued for near a year, that he remained at that city, which however he did not leave with all the satisfaction he could have wished. The *Athematdoulet* informed him that the *Sophi* would willingly march 40,000 men into the states of *Multan*, but that he could give no more to the *Raja* of *Visapour*, with the title of generalissimo. *Scadeck* in vain made the strongest representations of the insufficiency of this number to effect the operations projected ; he even went so far as to say it would expose the glory of *Sba Sephi*, and the honour of the nation ; that he might as well do nothing, as do no more. He was second-
ed

ed by *Rbedi*, but it signified nothing ; he was obliged to follow his directions, with the mortification of foreseeing that so fine a project would prove abortive, but at the same time with a resolution to owe the success of it to nothing but his own genius, and the secret springs he intended to set in motion. In short, he was the more animated to supply what was wanting, by his own strength of mind, as he knew, if he miscarried in the enterprize, he should bear the whole blame.

It was with this temper of mind that in his way to *Amadabat* he paid a visit to the * *Rajas* of *Guzarate*, *Buckor*, *Multan*, *Bram-pour*, and some other princes whom he thought it his interest to secure. He had reason to be content with the favourable dispositions he found in some, or which he knew how to inspire in others. He arrived at length to the *Raja* of *Visapour*, to whom he communicated the designs of the king of *Persia* to advance him to the imperial dignity, and what he had transacted with the *Rajas* and princes just mentioned. He presented him also, in the name of the *Sophi*, with the commission of generalissimo of an army of 40,000 *Persians*, who were to take the field as soon as the season permitted, independent of a like number which lay on the frontiers of the *Raja* of *Multan*. He with much art displayed the importance of these succours, and intimated that greater might be expected

* Electors of *Mentz*, *Triers*, *Cologne*, and *Palatine*. ed

ed when the situation of affairs required ;
 “ which is not probable, *says he*, if as
 “ soon as the *Persian* troops have joined
 “ those of *Visapour*, they attack the queen
 “ of *Golconda* in the heart of her dominions,
 “ and marching directly to * *Gehanabad*, the
 “ capital of the principality of *Delly*, make
 “ themselves masters of that place, which
 “ will not be very difficult, and then the
 “ whole country will submit. They may
 “ then turn their arms on the kingdom of
 “ *Jenupar*, the conquest of which will be
 “ yet more easy, as it will have been pre-
 “ ceded by that of the province of *Delly*
 “ its neighbour ; and as the king of *Zaga-*
 “ *thay*, with whom he had orders to confer,
 “ would promote it by the powerful diver-
 “ sion he has just made in the province of
 “ *Bacar*.” Thus *Scadeck* laboured at a di-
 stance to turn to the advantage of the enter-
 prize the deficiency of the means by which
 it was to be accomplished, and which per-
 haps might have proved effectual, if they
 had been employed as he proposed. To
 prevent the *Raja* of *Visapour*’s observing the
 weakness of the succours of *Persia*, he sub-
 tilly insinuated to him the plan of operations
 for the approaching campaign, and the use
 he might make of the troops the *Sophi* had
 allotted him, to aggrandize himself at the
 expence of the house of *Delly*.

Every thing being settled with the *Raja*
 * *Vienna*. of

of *Visapour*, *Scadeck* proceeded forward to the king of *Zagathay*, whom he found engaged in the siege of one of the principal towns of the province of *Bacar*, in consequence of a signal * victory he had obtained over the *Dellyans*, who had been obliged to quit the field of battle after a long fight, which they had sustained with the greatest intrepidity. *Scadeck* congratulated *Gion Kan* upon his successes, and communicated what the *Sopbi* had designed for the advantage and tranquillity of the empire of *Mogol*, and his desire of maintaining an inviolable friendship with the king of *Zagathay*. The *Persian* minister made but a short stay with this monarch, who treated him with the highest distinction, and after admiring the *Usbeck* army, which had been drawn up to do him honour, he took the road to *Amadabat*. It is said, and in all appearance probable, that in this interview the last hand was put to the regulations which had been before concerted between the two crowns.

The queen of *Golconda's* affairs were now in the most unfortunate situation; while the king of *Zagathay*, in conjunction with the *Raja* of *Labor*, subdued with a surprising rapidity the provinces of *Bacar* and *Sambal*, the *Sopbi* and the *Raja* of *Visapour* were preparing to carry fire and sword into the principality of *Delly*, and the kingdom of *Jenupar*. At the same time the emperor of

* The battle of *Moldawitz*.

China threatened the provinces on the *Ganges*. This princess found the sinews of war wanting, and would have had the mortification to see her finest states ravished from her, without power to defend them, if the *Japanese*, among others, had not supported her by considerable supplies of money, which enabled her to raise and maintain numerous armies, to repulse her enemies, and at length to retrieve her affairs.

About this time died, at *Ispahan*, * *Serizade*, a princess, no more than 27. She had been very unhappy in *Mirza Haddi*, her husband (who died about six months before her) altho' she had a most amiable character, and a sweetness of temper that was universally charming; she left issue but one prince, still an infant.

The different corps which the *Sopbi* had destined to form the armies of *Visapour* and *Multan* began their march; those which were allotted to serve under the command of the *Raja* of *Visapour* repaired to the frontiers of *Persia* bordering on *Guzarate*, and the army of *Multan* to the province of *Segestan*. As soon as these two armies, which were the finest in the world, had reached their respective places of rendezvous, the second, as an army of observation, was posted in the estates of *Multan*, and remained there all that campaign, and part of the following, without committing any hostili-

* The young dutchess of *Bourbon*. ties,

ties. It was commanded by *Azar*, a man of genius, whose late expedition against the revolted * islanders had gained him the grand *Calaat*; he passed for a good officer, tho' his capacity was not generally acknowledged.

The first, commanded by *Scadeck*, independent of the character of ambassador to † *Amadabat*, took the rout of *Visapour*, where it arrived after a long and fatiguing march; it was there joined by 30,000 *Visapourans*, and by that means formed an army of 70,000 men, having at their head the *Raja* of *Visapour* as generalissimo. He marched immediately towards the province of *Delly*, as if he had designed directly to attack the capital, which, as we said above, *Scadeck* had shewn him the necessity and facility of becoming master of it: if he had taken this step, he would have embarrassed the queen of *Golconda* exceedingly, for *Gebanabad* was almost defenceless. On the first rumour of *Sba Baskan*'s entry into the principality of *Delly*, *Nagar* had taken the alarm, and retiring to *Golconda* with all her court, had left *Gebanabad* with a weak garrison, which had orders to repair the ancient fortifications, and, if they had time, add new works.—But *Sba Baskan* had views very different from laying siege to the capital of *Delly*, he chose to begin by the conquest of the kingdom of *Jenupar*, of which he intended to get himself elected and crowned king. But to prevent

* The *Coriscans*. † The diet of *Francfort*. the

the *Persian* officers from penetrating his design, he thought proper at first to seize some little frontier places, and at the moment when they expected he would march to *Gebanabad*, he threw himself into the kingdom of *Jenupar*. *Nessir*, who had been sent to command under him, because *Scadeck* could not at the same time be at the head of the army and at *Amadabat*, in vain represented to him the dangerous consequences of this conduct. But nothing could prevail upon him to alter his measures; he contented himself with leaving * *Kazac*, a *Persian* officer, in the principality of *Delly*, with a body of 10,000 men, most of them *Persians*, to awe that province, and preserve the conquered places. After these dispositions, which he thought sufficient, he divided his army into several columns, and continued his march toward *Juneper*, the capital of the kingdom, under the walls of which all his troops had orders to assemble to form the siege. The queen of *Golconda* not having then any considerable body of forces in that country, but only a few light horse dispersed in small parties here and there, who were less formidable than troublesome; the *Raja's* army arrived without loss before *Jenupar*, which they immediately invested; the garrison consisted of but 2000 regular troops, who scarce fired a shot, having little or no ammunition. *Sba Baskan* was not ignorant of

* M. de Segur.

the bad state of the place, and therefore had no design to besiege it in form, but rather to surprize the town, by means of a correspondence within, or carry it by assault. It was in effect taken by escalade, a few days after; an atchievement, which was the more glorious, as it is uncommon. This project, and the execution of it, was the work of * *Kalife Sultan*, a brave and experienc'd officer, and a commander in whom his troops reposed the greatest confidence. He was the son of || *Mahmoud* king of *Thibet*, whom we have already mentioned, by a favourite mistress of illustrious birth. He had been long in the *Persian* service, and was much belov'd by *Sha Sepbi*. He had a lean countenance, his complexion was something swarthy, his air robust; he was remarkably tall, and very strong; his discernment was exquisite, and his conversation engaging; he was amorous, and thought to have extraordinary talents, which gained him great influence among the ladies, with whom it is said, he had acquired an high reputation. It has been reported, that he had conceived a tender passion for a lady whose name was § *Zelamire*, incomparable in the art of mimicking the passions; but less celebrated for this excellence, than for her fine genius, and noble sentiments. Her house was the resort of the best and politest company. This lady died, after a few

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hours

* *The Count de Saxe.* || *Augustus late King of Poland.*
§ *Mad. Le Couvreur an Actress.*

hours illness, in the most violent pain, which gave occasion to suspect she was poisoned, and it was even said she fell the victim of a lady jealous of the visits *Kalife Sultan* paid her, which were more frequent than she could bear. Soon after her death there was much talk of letters pretended to have passed between her and this lord; but whether these letters were suppressed, or this report was without foundation, none of them ever appeared.

As soon as they had settled matters at * *Jenupar*, *Sba Baskan* was elected and crowned king, amidst the acclamations of the inhabitants, who thought themselves too happy, inasmuch as the conqueror had not treated them with the rigour of the laws of war.

Fortune was not equally favourable to this prince in the principality of *Delly*, nor in the states of *Visapour*. *Kazac*, who, as we have already observed had been left with a body of 10,000 men, to preserve the conquests, finding himself too weak to keep the field before † *Bakir*, the *Golcondese* general, retired under ‖ *Secandra*, a town of considerable strength on the river § *Gemene*, by which he hoped to have received his convoys of provisions and ammunition. But *Bakir* cut off his communication with that river, and in a few days reduced him to the absolute want of sub-

* Prague. † Count Traun. ‖ Lintz. § The Danube.

subsistence. * *Kazac*, having now no resource, chose rather to capitulate, than make an attempt, at the head of his little army, to force an honourable passage sword in hand; a conduct which did him no honour, tho' it is confidently affirmed he produced the written orders of *Ismael Beg* for his justification; which does not appear improbable, because he was well received by the *Sopbi*, and employed again afterwards. But a fault, from which he could never clear himself, was his not taking care to specify in the capitulation the rout which his troops were to take in their retreat, whereby they were forced to make a long and tiresome march, in which he lost great numbers of his men, who were refused even the necessaries of life. *Kazac* was a large man, handsome and well made, had a great deal of vivacity and humour, and was in every respect fit for a court, where his graceful appearance gained him more reputation than his capacity for war. *Bakir*, after this expedition, in a short time recover'd the rest of the principality of † *Delly*.

‡ *Xura*, at the head of another army, threw himself into the § *Visapouran*; he routed || *Rez-za*, who was in no condition to oppose him, and putting all to fire and sword possessed himself of the principal towns, and marched toward the capital, to which he laid siege; it made a vigorous defence, but at length was forced to surrender. The ¶ *Golcondese* are

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* *M. de Segur.* † *Austria.* ‡ *Count Khevenhuller.*
§ *Bavaria.* || *Count Thoring.* ¶ *Austrians.*

reproached, not only with pillaging all the houses, and the palace of the *Raja*, from which they carried away vast treasure, but with exercising all kinds of cruelty. One particular instance will be sufficient to give an idea of the inhumanity with which they treated the vanquished: a rich merchant, seeing the enemy upon the point of forcing a bridge which communicated with the town, caused it immediately to be cut down, and from his house, which fronted it, and in which he had drawn together some chosen men, he very much incommoded the besiegers. After the reduction of the place, the *Golcondese*, far from having any respect to the bravery of the man, who had done no more than his duty in fighting for his prince and country, hanged him at the end of the very bridge he had so gallantly defended. *Xura* having taken the capital, was soon master of the whole country; and thus * *Sba Baskan* in one campaign found himself destitute of all his dominions, and was reduced to lead a melancholy life at † *Amadabat*, where he kept his court.

This reverse of fortune, and the march of ‡ *P. Salcher*, brother-in-law to the queen of § *Golconda*, obliged the combined armies of || *Zagathay* and *Labor* to retreat, and they evacuated the province of *Sambal*. But there being a misunderstanding between the commanders, they parted, and the army of *Labor*

* *Elector of Bavaria.* † *Francfort.* ‡ *Charles of Lorrain.* § *Hungary.* || *Prussia and Saxony.*

bor going to join the *Persians* in the kingdom of *Jenupar*, prince *Salcher* followed the king of *Zagathay* so close, that that monarch could not avoid coming to a battle, which was fought in the plain of * *Kussala*. The *Dellians* bore down all before them, and pushing on even to the body of reserve, penetrated into the enemy's camp, where the soldiers, greedy of booty, fell into disorder, and regarded nothing but pillage, a fault too common in war. The king of *Zagathay*, taking advantage of this, rallied his troops, fell upon the *Dellians*, and making a dreadful slaughter, ravished the victory out of their hands.

The queen of *Golconda* then thought of disuniting † *Gion Kan* from the grand alliance, by giving him part of his conquests: but the negotiations could not be carried on so secretly, as not to take air. ‡ *Nessir* had even inform'd the court of *Persia* of it, and by several dispatches assured them that there was no confidence to be reposed in the king of *Zagathay*; that he had his own interest solely in view, and that in a little time they should see him espouse the quarrel of the queen of *Golconda*, or at least to make a separate peace with her, without regard to *Persia* and her allies. So much the less credit was given to these advices in *Persia*, as § *Scadeck* sent a quite contrary account, who, notwithstanding his penetration and abilities,

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* Czaflaw in Bohemia.

† King of Prussia.

‡ Marshal de Broglio.

§ Marshal de Belleisle.

ties, suffered himself to be amused by this prince, with whom he had frequent conferences. These rumours, however, were but too well founded, and the event proved that *Nessir* was not deceived: for the king of *Zagathay* in effect made his peace with the queen of *Golconda*, and withdrew his forces. And this princess had the satisfaction soon after to see the **Raja* of *Lahor* accede to this treaty, through the good offices of the emperor of *Japan*.

The conduct of the king of *Zagathay* was generally disapproved, and gave such a stain to his reputation as he never could efface. *Persia* might have warded off this blow, if *Ismael Beg*, less saving, instead of forty thousand, had sent a hundred thousand men to the *Raja* of *Visapour*; for the vast superiority of these forces would have kept the king of *Zagathay* within bounds. Be this as it may, after the defection of *Gion Kan*, the queen of *Golconda*, having those forces at her disposal which she had brought against him, ordered them to march with all expedition towards the kingdom of † *Jenupar*, and her subjects furnishing her speedily with supplies, she was soon in a condition to make herself so much the more formidable, as sickness and mortality had considerably weakened the *Persian* army. The remaining part was detach'd to different places at a distance from each other, and between which

* *Elect* of *Saxony*.

† *Bohemia*.

which there was no easy communication. The *Raja* of *Visapour*, contrary to the advice of *Nessir*, directed this inconvenient disposition; and it was supposed that *Scadeck*, who had made several journies from *Amadabat* to the army, advised it; and tho' this does not well suit the martial genius that was ascribed to him, it is nevertheless certain that he was blamed for it. Soon after this step *Sha Basakan*, having learnt that he was chosen emperor of *Mogol*, left the command of the army to *Nessir*, and repair'd to *Amadabat* to receive the imperial crown.

Towards the beginning of the year a comet appear'd, which was visible for a whole moon. It was very bright, and its tail extremely hairy, and extended a vast way northward. Its magnitude, and the duration of its appearance, occasioned a good deal of discourse, to which the situation of affairs was more than sufficient to demand attention, without the concurrence of the comet. But thus it is that the vulgar terrify themselves with these meteors, natural as they are, and always draw unlucky presages from them, which have no foundation but in their ignorance.

Mean time the queen of *Golconda*'s army advanced, by long marches, towards the kingdom of *Jenupar*, and received considerable reinforcements daily. *Nessir*, who was informed of its approaches, gave orders

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to his forces to quit their quarters ; but their great distance, and want of communication prevented their joining ; and all that could be done was to form, with difficulty enough, two or three corps, and to endeavour to join as soon as possible : but the enemy, who was much superior, did not give them time. *Nessir*, whose corps was the more considerable, had just received a check, which made him resolve to retire to * *Jenupar*, and put it in a posture of defence. As he had made this place his magazine for arms, and it was not ill provided, he doubted not in the least of making the conquest of it a dear purchase to the *Golcondese*. Part of his forces he sent into the town, and caused the rest to encamp round the walls, behind good intrenchments, and left nothing undone that his experience made him judge necessary. *Scadeck* came and joined him, and shut himself up in the town with him. The *Golcondese*, commanded by prince *Salcher*, soon appeared before the town ; and *Scadeck* directly offered to surrender it to the queen's forces, provided the army and garrison might have leave to retire. The prince accepted the proposal for the army only, but insisted on the garrison being made prisoners of war. *Scadeck* and *Nessir*, having rejected these terms, the town was besieged in form, but as their forces were intrenched breast high, the siege went on slowly, and there was so little appearance

* Prague.

ance of their being able to force the *Persians*, that it was resolved to change the siege into a blockade. *Salcher* shut up all the passes so well, that it was impossible for *Scadeck* and *Nessir* to have any communication with the country round. Mean time large detachments of the *Golcondese* scoured the country, and gave no quarter to the *Persians*. One of these parties attack'd a little defenceless place, which they had converted into an hospital, where there were at least eight hundred *Persians* sick, guarded by about two hundred men, who immediately surrender'd, and they were all put to the sword without mercy.

The queen of *Golconda*, encouraged by her success, gave orders at length to besiege *Jenupar*. *Salcher* immediately made all the necessary preparations for forcing *Nessir's* intrenchments; they were vigorously attacked, and as bravely defended. The *Golcondese* renew'd the attack several days successively, but could gain no ground. *Salcher* finding his forces repulsed, and that he had lost a great many men to no purpose, returned to his first project, which was to keep the enemy block'd up, and take the town by famine. This was the surest method, and would infallibly have succeeded, if *Sha Sephi*, well inform'd of the wretched condition of his forces, had not sent the army that was in * *Multan* to relieve them. A vast

* Cologne.

number of *Persians* perished by famine in a few months, and those that survived were forced to eat the flesh of their horses, a pound of which, towards the conclusion of the blockade, was sold for four or five *Mamodies* *. It was supposed that *Ismael Beg* had carefully conceal'd the situation of *Nessir* from the *Sophi*, who was no otherwise informed of it than by a letter which they found means to convey to † *Retima*. Having read it, she left it upon the table, seemingly without design, foreseeing that the curious, and perhaps jealous, *Sophi* would not fail to seize it. This innocent stratagem succeeded, and *Sha Sephi* learnt by this means to what extremity *Nessir* was reduced. He seem'd offended at it, but he was so strongly prejudiced in favour of *Ismael Beg*, that he did not alter his behaviour to him; but contented himself with giving orders to have the § *Divan* assembled in his presence, where it was debated whether they should relieve the forces that were block'd up in *Jenupar*, or not. The *Athemadoullet* was for the negative, and represented the immense sums it had already cost them for a prince, who did not assist himself. But the the majority of the ministry, and especially *Rbedi*, who spoke undauntedly, tho' he was indebted to *Ismael Beg*

* A *Mamodie*, or a *Mamothby*, as *Baily* calls it in his dictionary, is a piece of money current at *Ormus*: value 8 d. sterling. † *Madem. De Mailli*. The King's Mistress. § The Council.

Beg for his elevation, demonstrated that the dignity of the *Sopbi*, and the honour of the nation were concern'd, not only to relieve *Nessir*, but likewise to support *Sba Baskan*, the rather on account of what they had already done for him ; and, in short, that the danger being very pressing, there was no room to hesitate about ordering *Azer* to march with all possible diligence to *Jenupar*. *Rbedi* proceeded so far as to say that money should not be wanting, and that he had at least three millions of *Tomans* || in readiness for the expedition. It was then resolved to relieve *Nessir*, and in consequence thereof orders were given to *Azer* to make long marches for this purpose. At this news his army testify'd an unspeakable joy, and an ardor which gave all reasonable hopes that, notwithstanding the distance, they would get there time enough to deliver *Nessir* from the danger he was in. They were, notwithstanding, in great alarms at the court of *Persia*, and did not take courage again, till they heard that *Azer* was got to the frontiers of the kingdom of *Jenupar*, and had received a reinforcement of 10000 recruits, that had been dispatch'd some months before, but could not enter the kingdom ; and, in short, that, notwithstanding all the opposition *Salcher* could make, who had raised the block-

|| A *Toman* is in value about two pounds sterling, or forty five livres *French* money.

blockade to give him the meeting, he did not doubt but he should join *Nessir* in a little time, who, on his side, was upon the march with a part of his troops to facilitate their junction, whilst *Scadeck* remain'd in *Jenupar* with those that were left behind. † *Kalif Sultan*, who had a map of the country, had, with 14,000 men joined *Azer*, and undertook, on forfeit of his head, in a council of war, that he would conduct the army, without any obstacle, thro' a pass that he was acquainted with; but nothing could prevail upon *Azer* to march forward. Whether it were owing to a panic fear, or to private orders of *Ismael Beg*, as was suspected, he retreated with a fine courageous army of sixty thousand men, who long'd only to meet the enemy, and took the rout of the river * *Germane*, in order to throw himself into the country of *Visapour*. This conduct of *Azer* was the more censured, as the junction of the two armies was an essential point to be gained, and might have proved decisive; and he was strong enough to have effected it, in spite of the opposition of the *Golcondese*. For this reason this general was recall'd, and disgrac'd, but too late; for the courage of the soldiers was abated, and the extreme severity of the season had destroy'd great numbers, whilst the time was lost in councils of war and debates.

It must be own'd that *Persia* had taken the

the worst method : Her design being to deliver the forces that were besieg'd in *Jenupar*, the plainest method was for *Azer* to lead the army under his command into the territories of *Visapour*, to which he was so near, that he might have reach'd them within a few days, without apprehending any obstacles. This diversion would certainly have deliver'd *Nessir*, because it would have oblig'd Prince *Salcher* to quit the kingdom of *Jenupar* to go to the relief of *Visapour*, and cover * *Gehanabad*, which would have been in danger. They took this step when it was too late ; for *Azer*'s army was reduced to extremities, and entirely exhausted, by a long and painful march, without magazines, ammunition, across a barren country, already ruined by the passage of friends and enemies, and harrassed incessantly by Prince *Salcher*, who pursued them. And yet the arrival of this, in a manner, ruined army, in the territories of † *Visapour*, contributed to procure the recovery of them. But notwithstanding the succours which the *Sophi* sent thither, *Nessir*, who, after the recalling of *Azer*, had taken upon him the command, could not keep them ; the *Dellians* drove him out of the country, which was taken and retaken, even to a third time, and at last entirely ruined by a third conquest, which the Queen of *Golconda* made of it.

The *Persians* were still masters of some places

* Vienna. † Munich.

places in the kingdom of *Jenupar*, which were besieged one after another. *Scadeck* was shut up in the Capital with eleven thousand men, not reckoning the sick. Prince *Salcher*, at his quitting the kingdom to pursue the army of *Azer*, left *Zieky* behind him, with orders to lay fresh siege to the new *Jenupar*. This General obey'd, and cut off all communication from *Scadeck*; but after a blockade of above two months, the latter formed a project to leave the town, and conceal his retreat from the enemy. To secure the success of so great an enterprize; and to prevent even his own men from suspecting his design, four days before the execution of it, he ordered the garison to be in readiness to make a general sally; and in consequence a certain quantity of ammunition was delivered to the soldiers, and they seiz'd on all the hories that were in the town, and divided them amongst the different corps. He discovered not his design till the night before his departure, and left the town next morning before day, at the head of near ten thousand men, sixteen hundred of which were cavalry, a train of field artillery, waggons, baggage and small arms. He carried with him several hostages, to answer for the security of the sick and wounded, and likewise by way of reprisal for the treatment they receiv'd at the taking of *Visapour*. He had amassed a fund by large
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contributions, which he had exacted from the inhabitants, and which they had parted with their most valuable effects to raise. At his quitting the town, he had the precaution to order the gates to be kept shut, to prevent *Zieky's* getting intelligence of what pass'd, who had his spies in the town. His measures were so well taken, that his vanguard having been met by some parties of the enemy upon patroll, they took them for *Persians*, who were going upon a general forage. But tho' he had got two or three days march of *Zieky*, he was overtaken by some light horse : and he lost at least three thousand men, by the sword, desertion, and the great inclemency of the season. They took most of his artillery and baggage, even his own equipage, and that of the commissary-general of his army. He left a general officer in the town, and about nine hundred men, with orders to make the best composition they could for themselves. Eight days afterwards *Zieky* sent a summons to this officer, who obtain'd an honourable capitulation, the garrison having the liberty to depart with all the honours of war. In the town they found a numerous artillery, a large magazine of ammunition in the castle, pontons, many warlike stores, and above three thousand sick, who were made prisoners. Notwithstanding the misfortunes that *Scadeck* encountred in his retreat, he
deserves

deserves so much the greater praise, as the enterprize he had undertaken was, if not impossible, at least very difficult, *Zieky* having caus'd all the bridges to be broken down: and as, notwithstanding a disorder which render'd him unable to ride on horseback, he did not desert his little army, and would be carried where-ever his presence was necessary. For reward of so much care and fatigue, on his arrival at court, he met with so cool a reception, that he thought proper to retire to a country seat he had, a few miles from *Ispahan*.

The queen of *Golconda* celebrated the surrender of *Jenupar* by a very gallant and magnificent entertainment, which she made in *Gebanabad*: it was a chariot-race, in imitation of the *Grecians*, and it was so much the more particular, as there were none but ladies, with *Nagar* and her sister *Remana* at their head, who enter'd the lists to contend for the prize: a spectacle that had never before been exhibited in the empire of *Mogol*, and perhaps no where else in the world.

Some little time afterwards, she established a court of judicature in *Jenupar*, to try the citizens, not excepting those of the highest rank; and some were put to death, and others sentenced to pay immense fines. The pretence for these punishments was their excessive affection for *Sba-Baskan*, but it was thought that the real crime of the greatest
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part was their being very rich, and that *Nagar* wanted speedy and considerable supplies. The severity which this princess used on this occasion, far from contributing to lessen the idea of cruelty, which her enemies had form'd of her, serv'd only to increase it. We have made such frequent mention of this queen, that 'tis requisite to give the reader a more particular account of her, as well as of the prince her consort, and her brother-in-law, Prince *Salcher*.

Nagar, the queen of * *Golconda* and *Jenupar*, was young, of a becoming stature, and a great beauty in some people's opinion. She had a full face, a high forehead, fine eyes, a haughty look, a steady aspect, a nose too exactly shap'd, a very pretty mouth, tho' she had thick lips; a fair complexion, and a noble mein. With abundance of good sense, she had a steadiness of mind not commonly found in her sex: she was imperious, passionate, revengeful, but generous and grateful; she lov'd to rule, and would be punctually obey'd. The cruelty of her soldiers, and her treatment of the towns of † *Visapour* and *Jenupar*, have given her, perhaps with some foundation, the character of sprinkling her laurels with blood, and making war like an exasperated woman. 'Tis true, that the obstinate resolution of her enemies to deprive her by force of her territories,

* Hungary.

† Munich and Prague.

ries, and the extremity to which she was reduced, were indeed sufficient motives to excite her hatred, and make her wish for occasions to revenge her wrongs; but the unexpected return of fortune ought to have stifled such ungenerous sentiments, and to produce only a noble ambition to excel in greatness of soul, and overcome her enemies by a generous war. As for the rest, her fortitude under adversity, and the resources she found to recover herself, deserve as much praise, as her obstinacy in not acknowledging that prince for head of the empire, whom the *Rajas* had elected, and consequently prolonging a war that cost the empire of *Mogol* and the rest of *Asia* so much blood and treasure, have exposed her to censure.

* *Narsic*, Prince of *Aracam*, her consort, was of a middling stature, and had but an ordinary aspect, tho' he had fine features. He was an inoffensive man, of moderate understanding, had no genius for war, and gain'd no reputation in his campaigns. The queen, his spouse, had associated him with herself in the government, rather to do herself honour, than for any need she thought she had of him, or any utility she thought likely to accrue from it. His brother, prince † *Sal ber*, was tall, well made, and very much mark'd with the small pox: he lov'd war, understood it well, was a brave man, belov'd by the soldiers, but little by the officers, whom

* *The Grand Duke of Tuscany.*
of Lorrain.

† *Prince Charles.*

whom he sometimes treated with haughtiness. He was active and vigilant, at least in the morning, but it was thought that he cared little for warlike affairs after dinner. His exalted birth, and the title of brother-in-law to the queen of *Golconda*, gave him a good deal of authority; and *Nagar*, by trusting him with the chief command of her armies, acted prudently, and prevented the jealousy and misunderstanding, which prevails too much amongst generals, who commonly will not yield one jot to each other in birth, merit, and capacity.

Mean time the *Sopbi*, tired with so ruinous a war, offer'd to withdraw his troops, and leave it to the care of the empire to support the head it had elected. After some difficulties on the part of the queen of *Golconda*, these proposals were at length accepted; and in consequence *Nessir* gather'd his forces together, and took the rout of *Indus* to re-enter *Persia*. They obliged him to give hostages to prevent his committing any hostilities in his retreat; which, however, was a very unnecessary precaution, because *Salcher* pursued the *Persians* to the frontiers with all his army. Of near a hundred and thirty thousand men, that the *Sopbi* had at several times sent into the empire of *Mogol*, *Nessir* brought only twenty-five thousand back, and, according to some, a much less number; but all agree that the forces which were

were saved, were in a deplorable condition. 'Tis reckon'd that *Sba Sephi* lost in two campaigns, not only by arms, (for little blood was spilt) but by famine, cold, and desertion, at least eighty thousand of his finest troops: a very considerable loss, and hard to be repair'd. It cost him above seven millions of *Tomans* *, many brave officers, and a great number of persons whose employments called them to attend the army.

After having quarter'd his forces on the frontiers, *Nessir* came to court, and was ill receiv'd. This general, whose bravery and conduct at *Jenupar* had been so much extoll'd, that he was look'd on as the only captain *Persia* could boast of, did not find a single friend that had either inclination or courage to speak in his favour; and this warrior, whom even the enemy admir'd and respected, had orders to retire to his estate. Some thought that *Sba Sephi* was induc'd to disgrace him for no other reason but to please *Sba Baskan*, who hated him: others said that he did indeed act well in the beginning, but that at length his judgment fail'd him, and, instead of employing himself in his profession, he pass'd his whole time at table, which he was tax'd with loving beyond measure. However this was, it must

* That is, fourteen millions *sterling*, or about three hundred and fifteen millions *French* money.

must be own'd, that an officer, who was seventy five years old at least, esteem'd a brave man, and serv'd his prince and country well, merited a different fate; especially after so difficult a war, in which, 'tis own'd that those who were engag'd in it suffered more hardship in two campaigns, than is commonly undergone in twenty. He had a younger brother, who had taken the priestly habit, and was call'd * *Mahamet Nefir*. He had been a man of a very general acquaintance, and in great favour at court, both on account of his genius, vivacity, and gaiety, and his refinement in, and taste of the pleasures of the table, and the exercise of hunting. *Sevagi* had him commonly with him, which procur'd him the honour of being frequently admitted into *Sba Sephi's* company. He knew well how to make his court, and was a fashionable man enough, though he was past the prime of life, and had no very pleasing aspect. Being disgusted with the world, he retir'd, a little time before *Sevagi* died, to a solitude, with some *Faquirs*, who were under his direction, and to whom he set an example, by the regularity of his life. His retiring was matter of astonishment to both town and court, and those who knew him could hardly be persuaded to think that he would continue steadfastly in a state of life so very opposite to his disposition. However, whether it proceeded from

* Abbe de Broglio, *Abbot of the Monastery of Mount St. Michael*.

from the sincerity of his zeal, or his apprehensions of *what the world would say*, so it was, that he persisted in his resolution ; and nothing but the unfortunate situation of his brother, in the kingdom of *Jenupar*, could have prevail'd with him to appear again at court, whither he came to solicit his enlargement : and having obtained his suit, went back to his retirement, and quitted it no more.

The *Japanese* had treated the *Persians* for two years past, in such a manner that their conduct might be deemed an insult. *Ismael Beg* had always dissembled, and perhaps his cautious way of acting contributed not a little to render the *Japanese* more enterprising. To curb their insolence, and make the *Persian* name respected by them, vast preparations for sea were made ; an effort that appeared so much the more surprizing, as the navy was in no flourishing condition in *Persia*. The command of the fleet was bestow'd on * *Tachmene*, the second son of * *Zelide*, by her first marriage, a nobleman of about thirty years of age, who had made marine his particular study, and was very desirous to bring it into greater credit with the *Persians*. He gave attention to the minutest particulars, and neglected not, when occasion offer'd, to inform himself of the naval affairs of those nations that were the most renowned at sea. He was tall, and
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* *The Chevalier D' Antin* :
de Thoulouse.

* *The Countess*

so lusty for his age, that he seem'd to walk with great difficulty ; he had a round face, a forehead rather little than large, dark, hollow eyes, often look'd wildly, and sometimes confusedly, had a short, Roman nose, turning upwards, a mouth a little flat, but smiling, a fair skin, and a fine complexion. His voice was strong, his manner of speaking quick, and he had the appearance of a robust, active man. His understanding was slow, but just ; he was inoffensive, very sober, and had gain'd a general esteem. He was a true friend, and took a pleasure in doing good offices. Those that did not know him thoroughly found him cold sometimes, and not very complaisant ; but his friends knew that his coldness and gloomy air were not at all owing to his temper, which was excellent. He was naturally merry and lov'd raillery, but did it without giving pain, even to those to whom he ow'd no respect. As he had never seen a battle, it cannot be positively affirm'd that he wanted not courage ; but he was too nobly born to leave room to apprehend that he would forget himself, in such occasions as required him to hazard his person. After about ten months at sea, which very much alarm'd the *Japanese*, and during which he contracted an ill state of health, he re-entered the *Persian* port much indispos'd, and was landed with difficulty, and a few days afterwards he died. Those who
paid

paid their court most assiduously to him in his life time, rais'd reports of him after his death injurious to his memory. Some gave out that he died of the wounds he receiv'd in a duel, with an officer of his fleet ; but the sensible part of mankind, and those who knew better, disregarded these rumours, and truly regretted his loss. He left a widow very rich, handsome, and young, by whom he had no children. *Zelide* was much concerned for his death, for she lov'd him passionately.

In the beginning of the second year of the war with *Jenupar*, a *Turkish* ambassador arrived at *Ispahan*, charg'd, as it was reported, with very important negotiations, but in fact only with a treaty of commerce. He had a numerous retinue and made a magnificent entry. * *Ibbi* was deputed to accompany him at this ceremony. This ambassador's name was *Horeb*. He was in the decline of life, of a middling stature, and had a venerable aspect, with a brisk, piercing eye. He was a man of excellent understanding, and extensive knowledge, of a sociable temper, an easy, polite behaviour, and very fond of living in *Persia*. He was said to have been engag'd in some gallantries which were little talk'd of, but some of the principal persons in his retinue had some amours that made so much noise, that he was oblig'd to enjoin them a contrary

* *Marshal de Noailles.*

trary conduct. It being the custom in *Persia* to defray the expences of the *Turkish* embassadors, he desired to make the disbursements himself, and with that view applied to have the money remitted to him, which was allow'd for every day's expence; this occasion'd his being tax'd with avarice, and not without foundation, for he was far from being generous. He had all the reason in the world to be satisfied with his reception at *Ispahan*, and at his departure thence *Sha Sepbi* gave him rich presents for the Emperor his master, of greater value than those he had brought the *Sopbi*, tho' they were very fine. He had presents likewise made him for himself and his retinue, which he had the greatest reason to be satisfied with. He liv'd above a year at *Ispahan*, and left it with regret.

A little time after the arrival of the embassador, *Sha Sepbi* sent one to the Emperor of *China*, charg'd with negotiations concerning the pretensions of the two crowns against the house of *Delly*; but especially to conclude a marriage between one of the Princesses of *China*, and the presumptive * heir to the crown of *Persia*, a young Prince of thirteen years of age, handsome, of a quick wit, not easily kept within bounds sometimes, but which, for all that, afforded the most promising hopes. The embassador's name was † *Baubec Kan*; he was a lusty

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man,

* *The Dauphin*:

† *The Bishop of Rennes*:

man, of great abilities, talk'd well, and was full of vivacity, which ill agreed with the profession of * *Moullab* that he had embrac'd, and seem'd not born for; so that it was fear'd he would not succeed in so circum-spect a court as that of *Peking* was. He an artful, dissembling man, and pass'd for one that had stoop'd to mean actions, unbefitting his character. He was captious, mistrustful, and covetous, and so passionate that he sometimes suffer'd himself to be transported to give indecent language. He was extremely well receiv'd by *Gelaleddin*, but little caress'd by the *Chinese* lords, who esteem'd him so much the less for his character, which got thither before him. They were surpriz'd at the *Persian* court at *Athemadoulet's* choice; but the politicians imagin'd he embrac'd this occasion to send away with honour a person, whose abilities and cunning he dreaded.

The King of *Necbal* declared, as above-mention'd, in favour of the Queen of *Golconda*, and having join'd the *Dellians*, march'd against the † *Chinese* & *Cochinchinese*, who were enter'd the territories of the house of *Delly*, situated on the further side of the § *Ganges* under the command of || *Bedreddin*, a *Chinese* officer, celebrated for his conquest of the kingdom of *Cochinchina*, a few years since. The court of *Peking*, dissatisfied with the little progress he made, recall'd him, and sent

Segedin

* *A Clergyman, or Bishop.* † *Spaniards and Neapolitans.* § *The Po* || *The Duke of Montemar.*

* *Segedin* in his room, who succeeded no better for want of sufficient forces, and so justified his predecessor. In truth, his situation was extremely perplexing, for the king of *Cochinchina*, terrified by the *Japanese* fleet that appeared upon his coasts, and threaten'd to make a descent, had withdrawn his troops, and embrac'd the neutrality. *Segedin*, being considerably weaken'd by the desertion of the *Cochinchinese*, prudently resolv'd to remove his army to such a distance, that he might be under no apprehension of an attack from the enemy. This wise precaution would, however, have avail'd nothing, and this General would soon have been constrain'd to quit his post, because the enemy pursued him from place to place, if *Gelaledin* had not made a diversion in the principality of *Jesova*, which oblig'd the king of *Necbal* to hasten thither with the best part of those forces wherewith he had join'd the Queen of *Golconda*'s army. This diversion, which was undertaken, in order to penetrate the territories of *Nagar* thro' those of *Korsula*, and join *Segedin*, immediately gave him more room. The principality of *Jesova* was soon reduc'd, and its capital taken by † *Negeddin*, the *Sopbi*'s son-in-law, who was sent upon the expedition by his father, the Emperor of *China*. *Korsula* did not suffer the young Prince to hold his conquests long, but retook them as quick as he had

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gain'd

gain'd them. *Negeddin* sent to *China* for such supplies as might empower him, without delay, to repair his loss; and he was not only furnish'd with reinforcements, but *Gelaleddin* dispatch'd * *Soulaski* to command under him, in the room of † *Yerid*, who was found too slow, and to whom the loss of *Jesova* was likewise imputed. *Soulaski*, a more active and enterprizing man, enter'd again into *Jesova*, and after making himself master of a castle, the garison of which he made prisoners of war, he march'd to *Korfula*, intending to give the enemy battle, but found them posted so advantageously, that he judg'd it improper to attack them. The two armies rested two days in sight of each other, and, when it was least expected, the King of *Necbal* decamp'd, and retired into another of his principalities, next adjoining to that of *Jesova*, leaving the latter at *Negeddin's* mercy, who was admitted into the capital as a conqueror. This motion of the king of *Necbal* troubled the Queen of *Golconda* and the Emperor of *Japan*, and made it suspected that there was some treaty between this monarch and the court of *China*; but he remov'd this suspicion, and encouraged his allies, by justifying his retreat, which he was forc'd to, for want of forage, and then by the weakness of his troops, that were extremely fatigued, and the superiority of the enemy.

The

* *M. De la Mina.* † *M. De Glines.*

The *Cbinese* being masters of all the country, and quarter'd in it, levied great contributions, whilst they waited for a considerable reinforcement from *Persia*, with which they reckon'd they should be strong enough to force the passages in the spring. Mean time, *Negeddin*, in the midst of the pleasures he had again recourse to, in the * capital, was in danger of losing his life, by his apartment taking fire in the night : one of his guards, with great zeal and intrepidity, burst his chamber door, and carrying off the Prince asleep, sav'd his life ; this help was very seasonable, for in a few minutes afterwards the floor fell in, and the building was burnt to the ground. The grateful *Negeddin* rewarded his deliverer very bountifully. This accident, which was only occasioned by carelessness, was suspected to proceed from *Korsula's* revenge, or at least from the hatred of his subjects towards their new masters. Thus were people ready to ascribe it to causes very wide of the truth, and as derogatory to the honour of the King of *Necbal*, as they were contrary to the laws of a fair war.

The *Sophi* resolv'd at length to assist his son-in-law with twelve thousand men, which he afterwards increased to twenty-two thousand, and gave the command of them to the Prince † *Morat Bakche* ; this choice he made, it is said, not to disgust *Soulaski*,

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who

* Chamberry.

† *Prince of Conti*.

who was captious, and carried it with a high hand, so far as to say, he would not serve with any *Persian* officer, tho' superior to himself. *Morat Bakche* having join'd *Negeddin*, they deliberated with the Generals of both nations about the measures that were to be taken, to render the chief end of the diversion successful; and it was resolv'd that they should attempt a passage through the * principality to which the King of *Necbal* retir'd. After having provided for the preservation of *Jesova*, the combined army begun their march. The two Princes, both young, brave, and thirsting after honour, penetrated in one campaign, into the principality, and seiz'd upon some strong holds, not without considerable loss. But notwithstanding the difficulties they met with, from the narrow defiles they had to pass, which were not easy to be forc'd, and in spite of *Korsula's* resistance, who disputed the ground with them, inch by inch, with equal courage and conduct, there was a probability that the princes would have been able to have made their way, even to the dominions of the Queen of *Golconda*, had they not been detain'd longer than they expected, by a very tedious and bloody siege, and oblig'd to raise it, by the advance of the season, and, the snow falling, to conduct their army, which was much lessen'd and vastly fatigu'd,
into

* Piedmont.

into winter quarters; a refreshment which they wanted extremely.

A little time after the exaltation of *Sba Baskan* to the throne of *Mogol*, they had the news in *Asia* of the revolution which happened in * *Russia*, where the army had de-thron'd this emperor, a child, to put † *Selaticheb* in his place, a Princess of thirty three years old, greatly beloved by the whole nation. The hatred they bore to the minister, who, in the opinion of the people, govern'd himself somewhat too much by the principles of the house of *Delly*, occasion'd this revolution, which was so well conducted, and so speedily executed, that a single night saw the beginning and ending of it. *Sydameck* was then embassador at this court, from *Sba Sepbi*: he was a *Persian* Lord, about thirty six, tall, very handsome, witty, extremely polite, and a man of great gallantry. He was said to be in high favour with *Selaticheb*, to whom indeed he regularly paid his court, and she treated him with particular marks of distinction. There was this remarkable, that the soldiers deputed fifty of their number to inform § *Sydameck* of what passed, and recommend the Empress to his care, for whom, they said, they knew he had a singular affection; and likewise to testify, that they earnestly desir'd that their new mistress would keep up a good intelligence with the *Sopbi*, whom they loved and

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respected.

* Muscovy. † Princess Elizabeth, § M. de la Chetardie.

respected. This event caus'd so much the more uneasiness at the court of *Golconda*, because *Selatibeb* had confin'd the ministers, and some lords, that were attach'd to the house of *Delly*, and had found amongst their papers certain schemes and correspondences, that the new Empress had reason to be displeas'd with. This revolution entirely unhing'd the affairs of *Nagar* at this court, and a rupture was apprehended. *Sydameck* artfully took advantage of the dispositions of the Empress; and as he daily advanced in her favour, it was not doubted but she would soon openly side with *Persia*. The power of this monarchy, which was little known twenty years ago, had been slighted by the sovereigns of *Asia*; but the Emperor * *Phadek*, a wise Prince, and who had great designs in view, having at once rais'd his empire from the obscurity in which it lay, and created, as I may say, a new people, had drawn all eyes upon him, arriv'd at length to that authority that he had a vast influence in general affairs. *Sydameck* was the first person *Sba Sephi* sent to this court with the title of ambassador; and as this step gave great satisfaction, there was reason to believe, that if *Persia* resolv'd to have a minister of the first rank resident there constantly, the nation would continue to be highly respected by the *Russians*.

The

* *Peter the Great.*

The year before the *Persians* quitted the empire of *Mogol*, the Queen of *Golconda* and her allies sent several corps into *Feldrans*. Their plan of operation was to penetrate into *Persia*, and oblige *Sba Sephi*, by this diversion to recal his troops; which could not have been effected without exposing them to great dangers in their retreat. But the *Sophi* was happily provided for it; for far from disarming, he had made new levies, and sent them by degrees to his frontiers. Besides a numerous army, which he could get together in a few days, in the neighbourhood of the *Indus*, he had another in that part of *Feldrans* that belong'd to him. On the rumour of the allies being in motion on that side, he came to a resolution to put his troops in motion. The command was designed for *Seif*, who was so ill that he was advis'd to refuse it; out of pique, perhaps, that the same honour was not conferr'd on him, that *Nessir* was rewarded with upon his expedition to *Jenupar*. Upon his refusal, the command was given to *Ibbi*. All the princes and the nobility thought it their duty to repair to this army: They arriv'd late, and tho' an action of importance was expected every day, yet nothing happen'd, because the allies made no attempt. The *Sophi* discovered great moderation in this juncture; for tho' he saw the enemy at his gates, and knew their designs,

yet he was satisfied with only putting himself in a posture of defence, and took no advantage of the conduct of the allies, so much the more indiscreet, as war was not yet declar'd. *Ibbi* employ'd himself in marches, encampments, and providing, in his usual way, against ordinary accidents: he visited the places of most consequence, putting them in a posture of defence, and took particular care of the fortifications of a § maritime town, which *Ska Sepbi* had a mind to secure effectually against all attempts. This was the first campaign of the young † *Sevagi*, who distinguish'd himself less by the magnificence and splendor of his equipage, than by his application to business, vigilance, and indefatigable zeal, and, above all, by his affability and generosity, by which he merited the praises of the officers, and gain'd the hearts of the soldiers. This young Prince was then seventeen, handsome, tall for his age, geentel, and had an engaging air. A stiff and constrain'd behaviour before persons of the same quality, or strangers, and a kind of bashfulness, made him sometimes appear confus'd, but he corrected this, at least in part, during the campaign, and assum'd a more free and easy carriage. He had a good understanding, a noble ambition, and uncommon generosity; in a word, he was a very able and promising Prince. *Zelide* was so much the more uneasy at his departure,

§ Dunkirk. † Son to the late Count of Toulouse and Duke of Penthievre.

departure, because he was of a very tender constitution ; but two months stay in the army strengthened it, and he returned quite altered for the better.

A little before this campaign died at *Ispahan*, aged thirty-three, * *Selatibeb*, the widow of the late † Emperor of *China*, *Semein* the first, the eldest son of *Gelaleddin*, in whose favour his father abdicated the throne eighteen years since, and who did not reign a year. This Princess was the daughter of *Ali Homajou*, and one of those whose marriage was one of the conditions of the peace between *Persia* and *China*, as we have already observ'd in the beginning of these memoirs. Ever since her return to *Ispahan*, she led a very retired and melancholy life.

Towards the close of the same year, *Retima* lost the title of favourite mistress, and fell into disgrace. Her generous disposition occasion'd her misfortune : She had four sisters, one of whom she brought to court ; her name was *Ofria*, she had been some years a widow, having lost her husband, a *Persian* Lord, who was carried off, in the twenty-sixth year of his age, by a pestilential fever. She was pretty, very fair, and tho' she had made but little noise in the world since she became a widow, yet she appear'd at court with pleasure, and not without ambition. Being introduc'd by *Retima* to *Sba Sephi's* company, she despair'd not of touch-

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* Elizabeth:

† Lewis I King of Spain.

ing his heart, and supplanting her sister. *Azmur*, one of the four *Mekters*, it was said, had a considerable share in this intrigue. He was tall, well made, agreeable, extremely gallant, and still retain'd a quick relish of those pleasures, the excessive use of which had worn him out fast, and made him an old man before his time. He had been a great lover of the sex, and was generally thought to have met with very grateful returns. His intrigues had made a great noise, and engag'd him in some quarrels, from which he extricated himself with honour. He was a person of good sense, gay, diverting, very rich, but a bad œconomist. He was greatly esteem'd at court, and found means to gain *Sba Sephi's* good graces: add to this, he was ambitious, and after the death of *Ismael Beg* was taxed with aspiring to the ministry; a post which, notwithstanding his abilities, it may be affirm'd he was unfit for, by reason of his inclination to pleasure, want of application, and a rakish air.

Sba Sephi could not resist* *Osiria's* charms; but this interested woman, being determin'd to avail her self of the advantages she knew her beauty gave her over *Retima*, made him purchase the conquest; for she would not accept the place of favourite, unless accompanied with such titles and distinctions, as there had been but one instance of under the reign

* *The Dutchess De Chateauraux.*

reign of the gallant *Sba Abbas the Great*; she yielded not to his wishes, till she had first procured such a settlement as might secure her against all events. *Sba Sepbi* was too much in love not to grant all she ask'd, and her credit became so great, that it was fear'd she might come to govern absolutely. A pretty little apartment was built for her in a palace out of town, which the *Sopbi*, as we have before said, purchased two years after *Sevagi's* death; convenient machines were contrived to carry her from place to place, at such times and occasions as her lover thought worthy the utmost * attention.

Retima heard the news of her disgrace with unspeakable grief; and as she had truly loved, and her heart was affected, she remained long inconsolable: but an *Iman*, a person of great zeal and understanding, brought her to serious reflection; and the frequent conversations she had with him restored her former tranquillity, and gave her a sight of her duty. And now this lady, who used to dress so richly, and spent her whole time in diversions, diligently frequented the mosques in a plain dress, mix'd with women of an inferior rank, from whom she could only be distinguished by her devotion and modesty, and was more admir'd and respected in this lowly state, than she had been in the height of her grandeur. *Sba Sepbi* settled on her a yearly pension, of about nine hundred

* When she was with Child.

hundred *Tomans*, gave her a palace, and ordered her debts to be paid, amounting to seventeen thousand *Tomans*; which, tho' a large sum, will not appear extravagant, if it be considered, that she made no advantage of the place she held, and received no more than five hundreded *Tomans* a year; which fell far short of her expences at court. The payment of the seventeen thousand *Tomans* was assign'd upon the revenue of the customs; but notwithstanding the orders of the *Sopbi*, those that were entrusted with the distribution of the fund, not content with making the creditors wait, wrong'd most of them considerably.

The two other sisters of *Retima* were *Euxica* and *Dogbdon*. The former had been married some yearsto* *Zingis*, a *Persian* lord, who, tho' he was not of the first quality, maintained his rank at court. She was tall, well made, agreeable, and her conduct was unblameable. *Dogbdon*, the youngest sister, was very tall, had a thick bad shape, and nothing striking in her person. She was at least twenty seven years of age, and was married the following year to *Mir Tebekar*, who had been a widower some years, and was still young, very rich, and a person of great quality, but as to the rest, a man not much regarded.

At the end of the said year died in his capital *Ast Kan*, † *Raja* of *Brampour*, at the age
of

* *M. De la Tournelle*:

† *The Elector Palatine*.

of eighty one, leaving no children behind him. The title of *Raja*, and his dominions devolved by right of succession to * *Ali Kouli kan*, a prince of the same family, but of another branch, a little past eighteen. He took possession of his dominions in a very critical conjuncture, and at an age when usually prudence does not preside; he nevertheless took a wise step, in resolving to concern himself no further with the troubles that shook the empire of *Mogol*, than to contribute to restore its tranquillity.

The war was carried on vigorously between *China* and *Japan*, at least by sea. The two nations frequently took each others ships, and by the lists that were publish'd, it appear'd that the *Japanese*, tho' much superior at sea, lost a greater number than the *Chinese*. It must be own'd, however, that if *China* had kept the sea with a naval army, and hazard a battle, it is vast odds that she would have been beaten; but she was satisfied with sending out several small squadrons, which cruized from place to place, and annoy'd the *Japanese* more than if they had been joined together. This war cost both nations immense sums, especially the *Japanese*, whose coasts not being fortified, could not be protected without a large fleet; which, added to the supplies they sent the queen of *Golconda*, put them to a prodigious expence; but as they were vastly rich, and
had

* *The Prince of Sultzbach.*

had endless resources in their industry, trade, and the constitution of their government, whatever expence they were at, and whatever losses they sustain'd, they were yet much inferior in proportion to those of the *Chinese*, who had wanted these advantages. Amongst their other enterprizes the *Japanese* attempted to seize on a maritime town in *China*, where great treasures were lodged. They made vast preparations for this expedition, which prov'd unsuccessful; for they were forced to retreat with loss; and sickness and bad weather compleated the destruction of their men. But even their losses spirited them up to greater undertakings; and we beheld with astonishment new fleets sail out of the *Japanese* ports, even more numerous and more formidable than those of the preceding years: So great is the power of this empire, and so surprizing the courage of the people!

Mean time *Ismael Beg's* health declin'd daily, his advanc'd age, and an habitual indisposition, which old age render'd still more dangerous, presag'd his approaching end. He was often brought extremely low, his physicians positively forbid him all application to business, and he concern'd himself as little as he could with state affairs, and pass'd the best part of his time in a country house four miles from *Ispahan*. The ministers waited on him every day to give him an account of affairs, and receive his

his orders. * *Ibben*, who, as before said, succeeded *Osman* in the post of secretary of war, attended him one morning, and spent some hours with him in business, and whether it proceeded from indisposition, or too much constraint, he was taken so ill when he went away, that they thought his life in danger. The *Iman Hasday*, the confident of *Ismael Beg*, to whom he ow'd his fortune, fearing perhaps lest this accident might make too great an impression on his master, whose health was not so good as to banish all apprehension, did not give the least assistance to *Ibben*, and had him carried in all haste to *Ispahan*, where he was brought without life according to some, or according to others in so desperate a condition, that he died next day. The death of *Ibben* made a noise, and *Hasday* was publickly censur'd for it, and tax'd with inhumanity: And indeed his conduct appear'd so much the more odious, inasmuch as it was affirm'd that if *Ibben* had been reliev'd in time, his life might have been sav'd.

His place was warmly solicited, but it was given to *Neamed*, the son of *Daracha*, of whom we made mention in treating of the regency of *Ali Homajou*. He was tall, well made, had fine features, an obliging air, but inclin'd to melancholy, a noble mein, a sparkling, but not very solid, wit, and a superficial knowledge of abundance of things;
and

* *Mr. De Breteuil, Minister of War.*

and as he talk'd well and fluently, he impos'd on persons at first sight. He had long enjoy'd the confidence of the prince of *Jesseing*. His ambition was boundless, and it was said that his only reason for solliciting so vigorously *Ibben's* post, was that he might have a share in the ministry, and stand a fairer chance to succeed in his endeavours to obtain the post of *Divan Beghi*. This new minister's conduct was so artful, that he came to be in great credit with *Sha Sephi*.

Ismael Beg died a few months afterwards, after a tedious indisposition, which he bore with courage, and retain'd his perfect senses almost to his last breath. The *Sopbi* made him two visits during his illness, and they were shut up together a long time. It is reported that *Ismael Beg* in these conferences, in which he gave his master an account of the state of the kingdom, and what he thought necessary to be done in the circumstances *Asia* was then in, inspir'd him with an aversion to * *Muziama Moullab*, a priest of excellent sense, who he apprehended might be advanc'd to succeed him, tho' he had always seem'd to live in good understanding with him, and, as report goes, had done more than give him hopes of a great share in the management of affairs. *Ismael Beg* left the world to the great satisfaction of not a few persons, but regretted by the *Sopbi*.

* *Cardinal Tencin*.

Sopbi, who erected a stately monument for him ; an everlasting memorial of his generosity and gratitude.

This *Albematdoulet* absolutely govern'd *Sba Sepbi*, and all his dominions sixteen years. The little wealth he left behind him was a proof of his disinterestedness ; but he had taken care to provide handsomely for his relations, which is a manner of making their fortunes, so much the more refin'd, as it is more noble and glorious, more agreeable to self-love, and not liable to those suspicions, which the immense riches a minister leaves to his heirs commonly occasion. Being excited by his ambition to procure a *Mebter's* place for one of his nephews, he had the mortification to see the rest unwilling to admit one amongst them, whom they reckoned unworthy of a post, which they look'd on as fit only for persons nobly born. *Sba Sepbi* commanded them to admit him ; but all his authority could not prevent their eagerly seizing every opportunity that offer'd to make him uneasy in his new post.

As a private man *Ismael Beg* was possess'd of many excellent qualities ; his understanding being lively and refin'd, his conversation free and engaging, his genius quick, and extremely witty : He was a humane, good man, regular in his manners, a kind relation, a good master ; but withal he was
cun-

cunning, dissembling, revengeful, and a friend not to be rely'd on.

As a statesman he was too easily prejudic'd, not enough on his guard against informers, and ridiculously fond of being esteem'd an able minister, even in the opinion of strangers; he was not liberal enough, jealous of his authority, and did not so well understand wherein true honour consisted, as to maintain his master's in a proper manner. He had but indifferent qualifications for governing a great kingdom; for he wanted that extent and strength of genius that instantly takes in and comprehends all objects, discovers their strength and weakness, advantages and inconveniences, and always draws such consequences from them, as are most useful to a state. By pretending a great love for peace, he imposed on several powers; and in the meantime, by his intrigues in many courts, endeavour'd privately to disturb the repose of *Asia* by wars in which he had no intention of taking part, whatever hopes he gave them of assistance. He cast a blemish on the honour of his master, by infringing a treaty (which he had the imprudence to get him to sign some years before) enter'd into with the house of * *Delly* to the violation of prior treaties concluded with other princes, and disgrac'd the *Persian* name by the small number of forces he employ'd to make

* Austria. He means the Pragmatick Sanction, which the French King signed, and infringed soon after.

make advantage of the infringement of this treaty. At his entrance into the ministry he found things in great confusion, and rectified all matters in a short time; an æra that reflects great honour on his memory: But he wanted skill to improve the opportunities that offer'd to advance the power of *Persia*, or to foresee those that might hereafter happen. In a word, the great events, that fell out during his ministry, open'd to him an ample field of glory, which, to the shame and prejudice of his nation, he was unable to put to a proper advantage.

Immediately after *Ismael Beg's* decease, *Sha Sephi* declar'd he would take the reins of government into his own hand: And indeed he devoted himself entirely to the care of the state, and appointed set hours for his ministers to do business with him. The step he took was much praised, and with reason, but few could believe he would persevere in this course. The little inclination he was known to have for business, and his having been always kept a stranger to publick affairs, made most people conclude that he would soon make choice of a person to ease him of the burden, too heavy for bearing long. On this foundation there was great intriguing at court, for every one who thought he might pretend to this important post (and these were not a few, for no body thinks himself inferior to another

ther in sense and capacity) us'd all his arts to rise. Even *Cofrou* flatter'd himself with being restor'd to the place he had formerly possess'd; and to succeed the better compos'd a large *Memoir*, in which he censur'd without reserve the deceased *Aibematdoulet*; he manag'd so that he got it deliver'd to the King, who was struck with indignation against the author, and would soon have made him feel the weight of it, had he not been pleas'd. It must be own'd *Cofrou* spent his time very ill, and was guilty of the highest imprudence, to venture to blame a man scarce cold in his grave, and whose memory was dear to the *Sopbi*. He was ill advis'd, and worse serv'd: his precipitation ruin'd all; for supposing there had been any hopes of success, they were entirely destroy'd by the *Sopbi*'s manner of speaking his mind on this subject. This ill success, far from disheartening the remaining candidates, encourag'd them so much the more, as they suspected *Cofrou* and his party. But the *Sopbi* gave none the preference, except perhaps *Rbedi*, whose credit greatly increas'd by the care he took to furnish the supplies necessary for the expences which this Prince laid out on his new pleasure-house: One day among the rest he made his court artfully on this subject. *Sba Sepbi*, after some hours business with him at this palace, suffer'd him to depart without giving

giving him an estimate of the addition, to be made to the buildings, amounting to the sum of about twenty seven thousand *Tomans*. The King's natural timidity, and the vast expences required in the present conjuncture of affairs, prevented his handing the account about till it should come to *Rbedi*, whose representations on the matter he probably apprehended ; but he had scarce left his presence, before he gave the paper to one of his eunuchs, with orders to deliver it immediately to *Rbedi*, and to tell him the *Sopbi* had forgot to give it him. *Rbedi* open'd it directly, and seeing the contents, return'd to *Sba Sepbi's* apartment, and told him he was astonish'd at the smallness of the sum, for that he had computed it to thirty five thousand *Tomans*. The *Sopbi* was charm'd with zeal and complaisance of his minister, and took it the more kindly, as he did not expect it. This trifle establish'd *Rbedi* in the good graces of his master ; so true it is that with the great all depends on right timing things ! *Cosrou* by missing this point compleated his ruin. *Rbedi* seiz'd it, and establish'd his credit.

Whilst these things were transacting in *Persia*, they lamented in *Mogol* the death of *Nabal Akel Kan*, * *Raja* of *Guzarate*, who died in his capital, aged seventy eight. It was a loss, especially, in the present circumstances of his empire. The grandees of
Guza-

* *Electer of Mentz.*

Guzarate elected *Mir Kasem Kan* for his successor. His interest requiring him to remain neuter in the quarrels that divided the empire, he discovered no inclination at the beginning of his reign for one side more than the other: But in process of time he seem'd to incline to the Queen of *Golconda*, which greatly displeas'd the Emperor. As for the rest, the power of this *Raja* being less considerable in respect of his troops, than by the authority he derives from his dignity, his alliance is of no great weight in war.

Some months afterwards died at *Ispahan* the princess *Roxana*, the mother of *Mirza Haddi*, at the age of seventy years, and left *Cosrou's* party in some measure without a head; she died rich. The neutrality which the King of *Cochinchina* had enter'd into, being only an effect of the apprehension he was under lest the *Japanese* should make a descent upon his territories, did not hinder him from sending some regiments to *Sege-din*, which were publickly declar'd to be the same that *Gelaleddin* had formerly lent to facilitate the conquest of * *Cochinchina*, and having always been in that emperor's pay, were obliged to march at his orders. To little purpose did the court of *Japan* complain of this proceeding as a violation of the neutrality, for they could get no other satisfaction, and, therefore, seem'd easy, at least in appearance, and were so much the more

more so, because in a short space afterwards * *Olabi* withdrew the artillery and ammunition, which he had sent the year before to the assistance of the *Chinese*. But this prince remain'd no longer idle than was requisite to provide for the security of his coasts, and to put his ports in so good a posture of defence, that he might be out of all fear of the *Japanese*. Having taken these precautions, he rais'd a large army, and march'd in person to the assistance of *Segedin*. Prince *Negedin*'s success in the dominions of king *Korsula*, the desire of contributing to establish a brother, a very natural inclination, the urgent solicitations of the *Chinese* and *Persian* courts, and a singular aversion to the house of *Delly*, made the king of *Cochinchina* resolve to break the neutrality. However, the conjunction of the *Cochinchinese* had not all the effect that was expected from it: The *Dellians* were superior, and all that could be done was to keep on the defensive, till towards the close of the next year, when the *Dellian* general retir'd, to be at hand to support the king of *Necbal*, and cover the principality of *Bengal*, which, from the advances the *Chinese* and *Persians* made, they apprehended would soon be invaded. And in all probability it had been so if they had not been forc'd by the severity of the season to raise the siege of a fortified town

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town almost in the heart of the territories of king *Korsula*.

Sba Baskan nevertheless had thoughts of peace and transmitted propositions at different times to the queen of *Golconda*, which she always rejected, being determined not to hearken to a separate peace: A conduct that made her enemies say she had an inclination to perpetuate the war, but which was so much the juster towards her allies, inasmuch as without their aid she had not been able to defend herself. The necessity and efficacy of these succours afforded ample matter of discourse to those that sided with *Nagar*, who concluded that the territories of the house of *Delly*, tho' preserv'd entire, were weaker than the powers in arms against it. This consequence however, was false as to men, for the numerous armies which the queen of *Golconda* rais'd, was a proof that her dominions were a nursery of soldiers; but it was just in respect of the scarcity of money, which, in fact, put it out of her power to make use of her forces, without being assisted by the subsidies of her allies:

The states and princes of the empire were divided between the emperor of *Mogol*, and the queen of *Golconda*, each having sided with one or the other, as inclination or interest led him. Thus did this very powerful and formidable body labour its own destruction, tearing its bosom, and forging those

those chains, which it was so blind as not to see the victorious side might one day fetter it with. The empire of the *Mogol* was not the only one that discord had infected with its poisonous breath; the empire of *Russia*, and the kingdom of * *Jalekeldar* had their share, for they carried on a bloody war against each other; which *Ismael Beg*, it is said, contriv'd to engage the *Jalekeldarians* in, doubtless with intent to keep *Russia* employ'd, and deprive the queen of *Golconda* of the assistance she might have promis'd herself through the application of the emperor of *Japan*, who had great sway at that court. This war was prejudicial to the *Jalekeldarians* from the beginning to the end, and might have prov'd fatal to them, had not the empress of *Russia* had the generosity to hearken to the propositions of peace that were made her, to which she was induced, by a promise that was given her of setting one of her near relations on the throne of *Jalekeldar*, which was elective. Two generals lost their heads, which is an infamous punishment at *Jalekeldar*, for the ill success of that war. No means was left unattempted to save their lives, but especially the life of one of the two, whose name was † *Nages Keuli Beg*, who prov'd that he never joined, nor had it in his power to join the main army, when it was defeated by the *Russians*. But all was

in vain, nothing could overcome the animosity of the greatest part of the members of the senate, who were greatly exasperated at this defeat, so that these generals suffered. The unfortunate *Negef Kouli Beg*, the night before the execution, endeavour'd to make his escape, and in part succeeded; but an unlucky accident, which human prudence could not foresee, having prevented his getting at such a distance, as to be out of danger, he was discovered, brought back to the capital city, and beheaded next day. The hatred of the nation expired with him, and this great man was generally regretted: A sad and memorable example of the ingratitude and inconstancy of the people!

About the beginning of this year some * *Japenese* men of war and a fireship came before the bar of a neutral port, into which had retir'd a † *Chinese* vessel of sixty guns, commanded by *Hussein*, a § *Persian* officer of uncommon intrepidity. Two *Japenese* ships weigh'd and enter'd the port, and sent a summons to *Hussein* to surrender; to which this brave officer replied by a discharge of all his artillery; but finding that the *Japenese*, notwithstanding pursued their point, and the commander of the fort made no preparations for his defence, he landed his men, set fire to the ship, and blew it up. The sick perish'd in it; a fatal, but unavoidable

* *English.* † *Spanish.* § *French.*

voidable accident, for want of sufficient time to land them.

In the mean while the queen of *Golconda* had a numerous army upon the banks of the *Indus*, under the command of prince *Salcher*, who threaten'd to pass the river, and return *Persia* invasion for invasion, by making it the scene of war. It was the more to be fear'd that this scheme would succeed, because in the same juncture of time *Nagar* and her allies got together another great army higher up, in the neighbourhood of *Amadabat*, with which they design'd, as it is presum'd, to join prince *Salcher*. To defeat these measures, *Sba Sephi* sent * *Ibbi* at the head of fifty five thousand men to prevent this conjunction; and he gave about the like number to *Seif*, with orders to defend the passage of the *Indus*, and cover the neighbouring provinces.

Ibbi passed the *Indus*, and advanc'd towards the river † *Emni*, in order to make himself master of an advantageous post; but having been prevented by *Haider*, the active *Japanese* general, he posted himself on the banks of the river *Emni*, over which he laid two bridges, to gain a free passage, and be in a condition to take advantage of the motions that the confederate army, encamped on the other side, would make. The emperor of *Japan* was just arrived to head his army, where one of his sons, called *Mir*

Kassm, was got before him. The troops of the different nations which compos'd it, were commanded by brave and experienc'd generals of their own country; *Haider* commanded the *Japenese* and their hir'd troops; and *Faber* and *Memet* the *Dellians*.

They faced each other for several days; at length the allies having made a motion to their right up the river, in order, as some will have it, to approach a reinforcement of twenty thousand *Ceylanese* who advanced to meet them; or, as others report, to seek for provisions and forage, which they had exhausted, *Ibbi*, who had intelligence of this motion, immediately ordered about thirty thousand men to pass the river, the infantry over two bridges, whilst the cavalry forded it, designing to attack the rear guard of the enemies vigorously, and cut them off. *Haider* perceiving *Ibbi*'s intention, and concluding that the whole *Persian* army was passing, drew up the *Japenese*, who made their rear-guard, with all expedition in order of battle, whilst orders were sent to the van-guard to return directly back. The *Persians* having march'd thro' a narrow passage, which conceal'd the dispositions of the enemy from them, were astonished when they found their whole army drawn up ready to engage; but, as they had advanc'd too far to retreat, and on the other hand imagin'd that they had only the rear-

rear-guard to encounter, they march'd boldly up to the *Japanese*, and receiv'd their fire, which was terrible. The *Persian* ranks being considerably thinn'd, they were thrown into some disorder, and lost ground; but their commanders rallied them, and led them a second time to the charge, which succeed-
ed no better than the first; and at length a third time, with little effect, the *Dellians* being then come up. * *Mirgi Mola*, the son of prince *Jasseing*, † *Miram* the younger brother of *Mirza Haddi*, and the two sons of *So'iman* and *Sevagi* did wonders. Some regiments of infantry behav'd bravely, but were ill seconded by a body of foot, considerable by their number, and distinguish'd by the rank they held in the *Persian* militia, who took to their heels, and spread a terror throughout the greatest part of the infantry, which fled likewise, leaving the cavalry, who were forc'd to maintain a running fight with great disadvantage. This cavalry, were the choicest of *Sha Sepbi's* troops; they fought bravely, and suffer'd extremely. The *Japanese* confess'd that they were astonish'd at the fury wherewith they began the attack, and could not have stood them if they had either given the third discharge with the same intrepidity, or had not been deserted by their infantry or the *Dellians* had not come up very seasonably. These that fled, imagining the enemy was at their heels, threw

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themselves

* The Duke of *Chartres*. † The Count of *Clermont*.

themselves into the river, and part of them were drowned. This action lasted four hours and a half, and cost the *Persians* a-bundance of men, and several brave officers in particular, who, seeing their regiments turn their backs on the enemy, rang'd themselves in a firm line, preferring an honourable death to a shameful flight.

The allies who had been sorely gall'd by the *Persian* artillery, imagining that their whole army was passing, judg'd it improper to pursue those that fled; fearing perhaps lest the desire of gaining greater advantages might occasion the loss of those they were in possession of: So that they contented themselves with remaining on the field of battle till next day in the afternoon, when they quitted it, and what appear'd strange, abandon'd their wounded men, and some pieces of cannon. It was reported, however, that if they had taken advantage of the disorder the *Persians* were in, and dispos'd their army so as to have pass'd the river, they might have gain'd a complete victory; so great was the terror of the *Persian* army in general!

* *Mir Kassam*, the son of the emperor of *Japan*, though he was wounded himself, yet having found a *Persian* officer on the field of battle, covered with wounds, whose bravery he had observ'd in the action, he had him carried to his own tent,
and

* His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

and ordered his wounds to be dress'd first; an action that deserved so much the greater praise, as this young prince forgot himself, to take care of an enemy, much inferior to him, but whose signal valour had rendered him worthy of his esteem.

Some days after the retreat of the allies, *Ibbi* decamp'd, repass'd the *Indus*, and shut himself up in very strong lines, which he afterwards abandon'd to march to *Seif*, who stood in need of being supported, and at the same time to protect those provinces, on which he knew prince *Salcher* had a design. This prince had opened the campaign advantageously: One of the generals of *Sba Baskan* beaten, another unable to keep the field, the *Visapouran* subdued, a short cessation of arms lately agreed on between the emperor and the queen of *Golconda*, the neutrality which even the troops of this prince had just enter'd into, the taking a famous *Persian* officer with his whole regiment, *Nessir* drove from post to post, all the places that the *Persians* had made themselves masters of retaken, and the obligation the *Sopbi* was under that his troops should evacuate the empire: All these incidents were *Salcher's* trophies. In consequence of this success he march'd towards the *Indus*, and made such dispositions as shew'd he intended to pass it. *Seif* was intrenched on the opposite side of the river, and had different bodies placed at proper

I 5

distances,

distances, who were ordered to defend the passage. In the mean time he observ'd all the motions of the enemy, who gave him frequent alarms. At length *Salcher* resolv'd one night to attempt the passage in two places at once. He had made a bridge, that reached to an isle formed by nature in the middle of the *Indus*, over which he passed, and notwithstanding the continual fire of the *Persians* placed in the island, he lodg'd himself there, with about twelve thousand men. In the mean time * *Kaluced*, one of his generals, at the head of three thousand chosen troops, disposed in boats, made another attempt opposite to a post defended by *Kasamir*, a brave and experienc'd general officer, who forc'd him to retire with loss. *Kaluced* signalized himself in this enterprize, and had perhaps succeeded, if he had not had *Kasamir* to deal with. This design failing, *Salcher* thought only of maintaining his ground in the island, driving the *Persians* out, and finishing his passage. *Seif* was not strong enough to resist an enemy so much superior to him, and besides his troops were extremely fatigu'd; which made the *Sophi* resolve to send *Ibbi* to his assistance. The allies took the same route, and as they marched, demolished the lines the *Persians* had abandoned; after which, the season advancing, they repass'd the *Indus*, and separated their troops. On the other hand, *Salcher*

cher finding there was no possibility of carrying his design into execution after the arrival of *Ibbi*, and apprehending the overflowing of the river, retir'd, and put his army into winter quarters. *Kasamir* some weeks afterwards took advantage of the absence of the *Dellians*, and passed the *Indus* with a large body of forces, repair'd the fortifications in another island, and provided it with ammunition; an expedition that was reckon'd contrary to treaties, but which was judg'd necessary by the laws of war.

Some little time before this a *Golcondese* * general, whom fortune and a brutal valour had rais'd from an obscure state to the highest military employments, penetrated at the head of a resolute body of men, greedy of plunder, into the principality of † *Tatta*, a province given up to *Persia* by the treaty of *Gehanabad*. Here they committed all kinds of outrages, and published a manifesto, tending to stir up the people to revolt, and put themselves under the government of their former masters. Large contributions, which he exacted, and a considerable booty, were all the advantages he reaped from this invasion; which he would have paid dearly for, if he had not retired speedily, upon the intelligence given him that a large body of *Persians* were preparing to attack him.

During these transactions in *Asia*, *Russia* was upon the brink of a revolution, design'd to

* Colonel *Mentzel*. † *Lorrain*.

to dethrone the empress, and set up the young emperor in her stead. Some of the conspirators were seiz'd, amongst whom were some ladies of the court. Eight persons were condemn'd to die, whom the empress pardon'd, but they had their tongues cut out, and were banished. The queen of *Golconda's* * minister in this court was personally accused by the empress of having a hand in this conspiracy, and having promised the malecontents assistance. She demanded satisfaction of *Nagar*, whose interest it being to keep fair with this princess, she was very forward to satisfy her. The minister justified himself: But what impressions do not such accusations leave, especially after the discovery † *Selatibeb* made soon after her accession of a secret correspondence between her ministers and the queen of *Golconda's*? It looks as if there were a kind of fatality annex'd to the person of the empress, which expos'd her to intrigues; for next year ‖ *Sydameck*, whom *Sba Sephi*, in order to traverse the queen of *Golconda*, and her allies, sent into *Russia* about two years before, with the character of ambassador, having been charged with like practices, received orders from the empress to leave the capital in twenty four hours, and the kingdom in eight days. His papers were seiz'd, in which it was publicly reported they found the plan of an approaching revolution. There

* The Marquis de *Botta*. † The *Czarina*. ‖ The Marquis De la *Cbetardie*.

There was nevertheless this difference between this minister and the queen of *Golconda's*, that *Selatibeb* made no demand of satisfaction from the *Sophi* for the behaviour of *Sydameck*; a difference that afforded room to doubt of the reality of the accusation, and to suspect this nobleman was guilty of some proceedings more prejudicial to *Selatibeb*, than to her crown, and so much the more atrocious, as she had heaped favours upon him, and treated him with a particular distinction. Or, it may be, some jealous persons, to whom he gave too much advantage, by his extreme love of the sex, and the little care he took to conceal his amours, attained their ends, so far as to give this princess an ill opinion of him. However it be, his fault must have been very great, since he was forc'd to return all that was bestowed on him by the liberality of the empress, even to the marks of honour she had dignify'd him with in his first embassy. His place was conferred on a person who had liv'd a long time in *Russia*, and spoke the language, but, it is said, wanted the necessary qualifications for a minister of the first rank.

* *Zelim*, who had been some years ambassador from *Persia* to the king of † *Corea*, was lately return'd from his embassy. The *Sophi* pitched upon him to send to the emperor § *SbaBaskan*, charged with an important commission,

* M. de Charvigni. † Portugal. § The late Emperor Charles, VII.

mission, which serv'd to screen some secret negotiations with certain princes of the empire, and the intimations he was charg'd to make each particular power relating to the present state of affairs. He was a great politician, and perhaps, the ablest negotiator there was in *Asia*. He was in great reputation even with foreigners, which he justly merited. He was affable, a good friend, prudent, very discerning, unambitious, and free from that presuming air, that well becomes true merit only, tho' seldom attends it. He was tall, but a little round-shoulder'd, had a pleasing countenance, a courteous and obliging look, tho' his behaviour at first sight was reserv'd. This was not the only journey he made to the court of *Amadabat*; for as he was in some measure the sole negotiator *Persia* had to depend on, he was dispatched thither again the following year.

The prince * *Mirzi Mola*, at his return from the army on the *Indus* to *Isfahan*, married *Fulmia*, the sister of † *Morat Bakche*, a princess about eighteen years of age, pretty, well made, of an amiable character, and a lady of refined sense. The prince was much about the same age, tolerably handsome, but very corpulent, and sometimes impatient in his temper, and had no great genius; as to the rest, he was kind and humane, tho' at the bottom rather too covetous. His infancy afforded the greatest hopes, as it may be pre-

* Duke of *Chartres*. † The Prince of *Conti*.

presumed he would not have come short of them, if the sub preceptor, who was intrusted with his education, had pursued the methods of his predecessor in this employment. So rare it is, in the point of education, for the pupil to be the only sufferer by the exchange!

Persia, during the winter season, made great preparations by sea and land for the next campaign, which she opened by times, especially at sea: For in the second month of the year she sent out her ships from one of her ports, whither some *Chinese* men of war retired the year before, and were kept blocked up by a *Japanese* fleet ever since. The *Chinese*, being firmly resolved to fight the *Japanese*, tho' they were much superior, if these latter presented themselves, set sail in company with the *Persians*. The *Japanese* *admiral appeared about noon in order of battle, and engaged the *Chinese*, who had the van-guard of the combined fleet. The *Chinese* fought with all imaginable bravery, and suffer'd extremely, having stood the fire of the *Japanese* three hours alone. Their admiral signalized himself in a particular manner; his ship was very much damaged, but he had the honour to shatter the masts of the *Japanese* admiral with his cannon, and disable her, who could only take one ship, which was retaken towards the close of the action. The fight lasted five hours with inexpressible obstinacy on the *Japanese* side; who

* Mr. Matthews.

who had the advantage of the wind. The *Persian* admiral did not engage till the battle was almost over; a remarkable piece of conduct, and so much the more blameable, as the seconding the *Chinese* admiral would have enabled them in all probability to have defeated the *Japanese* admiral; his *rear-admiral, whom he was upon ill terms with, being at so considerable a distance with his division, which made at least one third of the fleet, that he could give him no assistance. The *Japanese*, tho' several of their ships were much shatter'd, especially their admiral, remain'd masters of the field of battle, the combin'd fleet retiring into the *Chinese* ports. The *Persian* admiral omitted nothing in his power to justify himself, but no regard was paid to his reasons, and he was disgraced: too small a punishment, in the opinion of the publick, for so great a fault!

Muzaim, the *Moullab*, whom *Ismael Beg*, as we before mentioned, gave *Sba Sephi* an ill opinion of, was at length become one of his council. He was a person of great understanding, as pliable as the deceas'd *Atbe-matdoulet*, but more subtle, enterprizing, and active, and, in a word, had a greater genius. He was sixty years of age, thin, of an ordinary stature, had a brisk eye, an insinuating air, a smooth tongue, and the art of persuasion in perfection. He had had abundance of intrigues, some of which had made such ill impressions as were not effaced in the minds

minds of some persons; so that he was not without enemies both at home and abroad, the *Japanese* especially dreaded him. As to the rest, he was a true friend, and improved upon acquaintance. He was not void of ambition, and would very gladly have been at the head of affairs, which, in many respects, and particularly in what relates to politics, he would have conducted in a skilful manner, whatever his enemies and the envious say to the contrary. He had the honour of the nation at heart, but was perhaps too fond of his own projects. There was one ascribed to him, which *Persia* took in hand, at the time of the sea-fight we have just mentioned. This scheme, which *Muzaim* was very capable of planning, consisted in making a descent on *Japan*, and causing a revolution there in favour of a young prince, whose grandfather had sat on the throne of that kingdom, which the malecontents forc'd him to abdicate.

Nothing had been neglected to secure the success of so grand an enterprize: They had ordered the *Chinese* and *Persian* men of war to sail, imagining rightly that the *Japanese* admiral would take advantage of the opportunity to come to an engagement with them. This was all they wanted, because this fight would give them time to execute their intended descent into *Japan*; and tho' the *Japanese* should gain the victory, they would be in no condition to fly to the relief of their country,

country, (it being morally impossible but they must suffer extremely in an action that was sure to be very warm) or at worst they would get there too late. These reasonings were just, and founded on daily experience. They had fitted out several ships in other ports, which were said to be designed for a quite different expedition from that of *Japan*, and stored them well with arms and men. These ships had orders to touch at a sea port town, to take in several bodies of troops, which were got together there for the descent. Secrecy, which is the life of great affairs, was so well preserv'd, that even the commanders did not know what expedition they were designed for, till the moment they set sail; and the same precaution was taken to gain a considerable party in *Japan*. They sent for, from a very distant country, the *young prince, to *Isfaban*, who was to act the chief part in this expedition, and had the address to bring him through the midst of his enemies, under a feigned name, accompanied with a brother of *Muzaim*, a circumstance that contributed not a little to make people believe this *Moulah* was the author of the project. On a publick rejoicing night, which it was designedly rumoured *Sha Sephi* would honour with his presence, and many persons were persuaded of his being there, he had a private conference with this young prince, who set out afterwards *incognito* for the place of

* The Pretender's eldest Son.

of the * embarkation. Every thing answer'd the *Sophi's* wishes: they came to an engagement at sea, and the *Japanese* fleet was so much damaged, it could not get back to the ports of *Japan*; the second *Persian* Squadron was in the road of the sea-port town, whence the troops were to be transported. The young prince being safely arrived, they embark'd, set sail, and went off with the most flattering hopes; but a tempest arose, which in a few hours dispers'd those mighty preparations, and rendered the scheme abortive. This kind of enterprizes require great dispatch, especially in winter, when the changeableness of the weather makes the moments precious. They were not expeditious enough in *Persia*, or, to say the truth, they could make no more haste than they did; for, notwithstanding the exact orders that were given, and the fitness of the measures that were taken, some transport ships not being able to get to the rendezvous at the appointed time, they could not take the advantage of several days of fair weather. This delay not only occasioned the failure of a very important attempt, but prov'd the destruction of abundance of men, and the loss of some ships. Fortune served the *Japanese* well on this occasion, who were so little upon their guard, that they had very few ships, and still fewer land-forces to make head against the enemy. The *Persian* fleet sailed back to their ports
to

* *Dunkirk*.

to repair the damages it had sustained, and the young prince returned to *Ispahan*, to wait for new means from *Sba Sephi*'s generosity to make a second attempt.

Soon after this event * *Tamet* was dismissed from his employment. He was little regretted; and tho' the *Sophi*, to prevent his removal having the appearance of a disgrace, rewarded him in a very liberal manner, it was not less suspected that he had conceiv'd a secret displeasure against him. *Sba Sephi* was some time before he named a person to succeed him; but at length his post was conferred on *Ibbi*, and *Zelim* was placed under him, who by his capacity, and the honour he had acquired in several important negotiations, was as worthy of it as any man; with him *Kibelt* was join'd, known by his long experience, some important commissions he had been entrusted with, and by the treaty of *Gebanabad*. This regulation lasted not long; for whether it were that the *Sophi* thought *Ibbi* was more useful at the head of his army, or for other reasons, amongst which the publick reckon'd the little confidence, which had, for a long time past, been reposed in *Ibbi*, so it was that † *Koutan Sba*, a creature of the deceased *Ashematdoulet*, who had been some years ambassador at the *Ottoman* court, was nominated his successor. But as he was advanced in years, and since his embassy had retir'd to his own estate, he preferred

* M. *Amelot*, Secretary of State † M. de *Villeneuve*.

ferred his retirement to the splendor of a post which in the present state of affairs he knew was a very precarious one ; and upon his refusal, * *Taxis*, the eldest brother of *Neamed*, was preferred to it. He was a person of a deep and solid understanding, and very capable of filling any employment in a distinguished manner, but he was neither so complaisant or affable as his brother. The *Sopbi* bestowed honours and dignities on this family with a lavish hand ; one of his children being at the same time presented to the place of † *Grand Cadi*, from which was removed ‖ *Feyde*, who indulg'd his pleasures to the neglect of the duties of his office. This place was in some measure due to the descendants of *Daracha*, the § *Grand Cadi*'s grandfather ; who had gain'd great reputation in it, and found means to raise a place, of no figure or profit, into an office of great honour and profit.

The *Sopbi* being determined to act vigorously this campaign, declar'd war at length against the queen of *Golconda*, the emperor of *Japan*, and the king of *Necbal*. A hundred thousand men march'd into *Feldrans*, under the command of *Ibbi* and *Kalife Sultan*. *Seif*, at the head of fifty thousand *Persians*, march'd to the banks of the *Indus*, and protected the provinces on this side the river.

Scadeck,

* Marquis de *Argenson*. † Lieutenant of the Police.
 ‖ M. *Herault*. § M. de *Argenson*, Lieutenant of the Police, and afterwards Keeper of the Seals, mentioned
 Page 8, 9.

Scadeck, who was taken again into favour, was with a considerable body of troops on the side of the river * *Ilement*, whence he protected the principality of *Tatta*, and the neighbouring places. † *Rutur Sba*, at the head of forty thousand men, kept in readiness to act as circumstances and necessity should require. And besides these different bodies of men, *Sba Sephi* had furnished the emperor *Sba Baskan* with near twenty thousand veteran forces, and sent *Negeddin* a reinforcement of twenty two thousand men, commanded by prince *Morat Bakche*, as we observed in mentioning the word of *Jesovab*.

Sba Sephi made his first campaign at the head of his army in *Feldrans*. Then it was the *Ceylanese* experienced as above noted, that by remaining attach'd to the queen of *Golconda*, they ran the hazard of seeing the towns which the house of *Delly* had mortgaged to them, taken by the *Persian* arms. And indeed, notwithstanding the good correspondence that subsisted between the *Sophi* and the *Ceylanese*, this prince besieged some towns in which they had garisons, and made himself master of them without much resistance. The sovereigns of *Ceylan* were not dispos'd to sacrifice their soldiers for a cause, which policy and circumstances, much more than inclination, engag'd them to espouse, and for this reason they neglected the strengthening those towns with such garisons as might enable them to make a proper defence. Nevertheless

vertheless they complained loudly of the *Sophi's* attempts on *their* towns, as they called them, and gave him to understand, that if he persisted in these hostilities, they could not dispense with themselves from declaring openly for their confederates. But the *Sophi*, tho' he still treated the *Ceylanese* troops who fell into his hands very favourably, pursued his measures with vigour, and answered, that he was of opinion he had the same right to assist *Sha Baskan*, as the *Ceylanese* thought they had to succour *Nagar*, inasmuch as they both pretended to be authorized by treaties.

The queen of *Golconda* and her allies were so much inferior to *Sha Sephi*, that it was highly probable, notwithstanding their brag, he would this campaign conquer the greatest part of the possessions of the house of *Delly* in *Feldrans*. *Rutor Sha* had orders to march to one of their strongest towns with forty thousand men, which it was believed he would immediately invest; and they were under the like apprehensions in the queen of *Golconda's* court for some other places of equal consequence. *Nagar* in vain endeavoured to animate the *Ceylanese* to greater things out of a motive of honour; for they alledg'd they had more than fulfilled their engagements, and were not obliged, either in point of prudence or interest, to run the hazard of making their own country the seat of war, and sacrificing themselves for other persons;

persons; that they had already lost enough this campaign to bethink themselves of saving the remainder by amicable insinuations and negotiations; and that, in short, their reason for not coming to a rupture with *Persia* was the desire of always preserving, by their mediation, a door open to an accommodation: a conduct that must needs appear praise-worthy to their allies. These were the reasons the *Ceylanese* gave to excuse themselves from making greater efforts, or declaring themselves openly.

The rapidity of *Sba Sephi's* conquests in *Feldrans*, which the allies were unable to prevent, was stopp'd at once by the news that prince *Salcher* had passed the *Indus* at the head of eighty thousand men, and push'd *Seif* briskly, who was obliged to abandon the ground he was posted on with great precipitation, and to retreat, in order to prevent the enemies penetrating into *Persia*. This event was the more surprising, as *Seif* was strong enough to make it cost him very dear at least, because *Salcher* met with no resistance from those very *Persians*, who the year before had the honour of frustrating all the attempts he made. It was suspected that the *Sopbi*, in order to prevail with the king of **Zagathay*, who was strongly solicited to to declare war against the queen of *Golconda*, and only sought a pretence for it, gave orders to *Seif* to let the *Golcondese* pass the *Indus* without opposition. And indeed the
success

success of it was one of the most specious pretences, that could have been invented, to justify the conduct of *Gion Kan* to all *Asia*. The necessity *Sba Sephi* was likely to be soon reduc'd to, by this accident, of withdrawing his forces from *Sba Baskan* to defend his own territories; the terrible consequences this would be of to the emperor of *Mogol*, who was upon the point of being deprived of all aid; the apprehension lest the queen of *Golconda*, in prosecuting her revenge against this prince, should endeavour to subdue the empire; the majesty of the head of the empire, and the dignity of the whole body expos'd; the honour of the *Rajas* concerned to support the prince they had elected; all these reasons might seem sufficient to engage the king of *Zagathay* to espouse the cause of *Sba Baskan*; and he alledg'd them, at least in part, to authorize the treaty he had just concluded with this emperor, the *Sopbi*, and some other princes, and to justify his renewing his hostilities against *Nagar*.

Sba Sephi notwithstanding, being under some apprehension that the *Golcondese* might make him pay dear for his complaisance in letting them pass the *Indus* without striking a stroke, left * *Kalife Sultan*, whom he had lately dignified with the grand † *Calaat*, at the head of the army in *Feldrans*, and with a detachment of thirty five thousand men made all possible haste to the assistance of *Seif*; and

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Rutor,

* Count de *Saxe*. † Title of Marshal of *France*.

Rutor Sba had orders, likewise, to bring the army he commanded to the same place. These different bodies made long marches, and effected their conjunction, notwithstanding the precautions *Salcher* had taken to hinder it. The forces were formidable on both sides, and their ardour the same; the *Golcondese* discovered a firm resolution to preserve their advantages, and improve them; and the *Persians* as great an eagerness to make the enemy repass the *Indus*, and to signalize themselves in the presence of their sovereign. These dispositions left no room to doubt of their coming to an engagement, which was expected every day, when the *Sopbi* was taken dangerously ill. In a few days his life was dispaired of, and a rumour even obtained that he was dead. Every other concern gave way in the *Persians* hearts to their apprehensions for so valuable a life; their affection for their prince, the just fears they were under of losing him, especially in their present circumstances, put a stop to all the operations, and the generals only endeavoured to put their forces in so good a posture, as to put it out of the power of the enemy to take any advantage of the public consternation, or the danger that threatened them. But at a time when they had no hopes, except from the vigour of his age and nature, his disease took a favourable crisis, and he was rescued from the gates of death. The public rejoicings were then equal to the grief they had felt: All the members of the state gave

gave demonstrations of their satisfaction, and *Persia* was for above two months wholly employed in diversions and festivals, celebrated at a prodigious expence, notwithstanding the care taken to limit them, lest the fortunes of particular persons should suffer by it. These proofs of zeal and tenderness reflected great honour on the nation, but still more on their sovereign.

The passing the *Indus* by prince *Salcher*, and his inroads into the neighbouring provinces, were not of so ill consequence to *Persia*, as there had been room to apprehend. The march of the king of *Zagathay*, at the head of an hundred thousand men, towards the kingdom of *Jenupar*, obliged *Salcher* to repass the river with all expedition, in order to oppose this new enemy. But notwithstanding the haste he made, he could not arrive soon enough to prevent that monarch's seizing of the * capital, and the reduction of part of the kingdom. The conduct of *Gion Kan* was violently exclaimed against by the allies of the queen of *Golconda*, and chiefly by the *Ceylanese*, who did not spare him at all in their discourse. Their hatred to this prince was so great, and blinded them so far with respect to their interest, that they did not perceive how much his taking up arms against *Nagar* was of service to them at a time when his pretensions to their territories, which he seemed disposed to prosecute by force, could not fail occa-

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sioning

* *Prague*.

sioning an open rupture between * *Zagathay* and *Ceylan*; they seemed not to see that the alliances which *Gion Kan* had just concluded, and the war he was engaged in, being likely to cost him much treasure and many men, would put it out of his power for a long time to give them any disturbance.

The diversion the king of *Zagathay* made, was a terrible blow to the queen of *Golconda*; for by this means her territories became again the seat of war: and by this means *Sba Baskan* and his new allies were enabled, not only to recover the *Visapouran*, notwithstanding *Salcher* in his march to the relief of *Jenupar* had thrown thirty thousand men into it, but likewise to carry the war into the principality of *Delly*. And hence in fine the *Persians* were delivered from the troublesome neighbourhood of the *Golcondese*, and at liberty in their turn to enter the provinces subdued by *Nagar*, in hopes of pushing their conquests a great way. It was a difficult matter for the queen of *Golconda* to face them every where at once; the confederate army in *Feldrans* lay quiet, which contradicted the rumour that was spread of its being just about to attack *Kalife Sultan*; to say the truth, there was little room to imagine that the allies had thoughts of disturbing so experienced a general, posted advantageously, against whom it was dangerous to venture to expose themselves with a much inferior army.

Luckily

* *Prussia and Holland.*

Luckily for the queen of *Golconda*, *Selim Kan*, king of *Thibet*, and * *Raja* of *Labor*, prevailed on by the solicitations, and still more by the subsidies of the emperor of *Japan*, declared for her, and sent twenty two thousand men to the relief of prince *Salcher*. This reinforcement enabled him to retake most of those places which the king of *Zagathay* had made himself master of, and forced this monarch to retire so much the more precipitately, as, on the one hand, he dreaded being forced to come to a battle, which he must probably have lost, his army being considerably lessened by sickness and desertion; and, on the other hand, it was of importance to protect the province of *Bacar*, which a *Golcondese* army newly assembled threatened to invade. *Gion Kan*'s retreat was so precipitate, that he had not time to take out the garrisons he had in the city of † *Jenupar*, and two or three other places, the greatest part of which were made prisoners of war; above eight thousand men went out of *Jenupar* with an immense booty, but they were so harrassed by the enemy, that few rejoined their grand army. Such was the issue of *Gion Kan*'s enterprize, which the adherents of *Nagar* in plain terms called a piece of knight-errantry. It might perhaps have merited another name, if *Sba Sephi*'s illness had not thrown some obstacles in the way to the execution of a design that was

K 3

formed

* King of *Poland* and Elector of *Saxony*. † *Prague*.

formed to attack *Salcher*, force him to re-pass the *Indus*, and harrafs him to such a degree in his retreat, as should disable him from making head against the king of *Zagathay*; or if, after the *Sopbi*'s recovery, there had been a possibility of marching quick enough to overtake and fall upon the *Golcondese*, or to get them between the fire of the king of *Zagathay*'s troops and those of *Persia*; or, in fine, if the season had permitted them to penetrate far enough into the queen of *Golconda*'s territories, to force *Salcher* to march thither, and by this diversion to set the king of *Zagathay* at liberty, who would then have been strong enough, at least, to preserve his conquests.

The queen of *Golconda*'s success against *Gion Kan* was balanced by the loss of some places, and, amongst others, of a large town which the *Sopbi* took after a long and bloody siege, and by *Sba Baskan*'s retaking part of the *Visapouran*. These different expeditions put an end to the campaign, and each party went into winter quarters. *Persia*, with a view of being in readiness to commence hostilities early the next year, made preparations to winter, by consent or force, in the territories of the * *Rajas* of *Guzarate*, *Bucker*, and *Multau*, forty thousand men under the command of † *Azer*, who was again taken into favour. They even declared that this army
was

* The Electors of *Mentx*, *Triers*, and *Cologne*.

† Marshal *Mallebeis*.

was intended to attack the principality of *Cabul*, or to penetrate into the dominions of the king of *Zagathay*, to oblige him to adhere firmly to his engagements, if he discovered any design of deserting the common cause, which there was reason to apprehend.

The *Sopbi* was impatiently expected at *Is-pahan*, where he at length arrived, and was received with the acclamations of the inhabitants, as much elated with the pleasure of seeing again a prince they adored, as they had been dejected with the fear of losing him. His illness proved fatal to none but **Osiria* and her sister *Dogbdon*, who with several other ladies of the court followed him into *Feldrans*, and from thence to the *Indus*; for they had orders to depart immediately, and were deprived of the posts they stood indebted to the *Sopbi*'s affections for. But his recovery put an end to their disgrace, and they came back to court, where their triumph was the more complete, in as much as their places were restored to them, and *Sba Sopbi* gave *Osiria* new proofs of his affection. This favourite, soon after being recalled, was seized with an illness, that occasioned her death. Some suspected she was poisoned, and others ascribed her death to a medicine unseasonably given, and some, in fine, imagine it was owing to an excess of joy. She died immensely rich, and left all her fortune to her sisters. *Sba Sepbi* was extremely

K 4

afflicted

afflicted for the loss of *Ostria*, but affairs of importance diverted his grief; of these the marriage of the * prince of *Persia* with a daughter of the emperor of *China*, which was just concluded, was none of the least; and it was necessary to think of sending an ambassador to demand the princess in form. All the noblemen of the highest rank were ambitious of this honour: † *Mirza*, the young prince's governor, insisted that it belonged to him, not only in right of his office, but also on account of his illustrious birth and rank; though his merit, exclusive of the advantage of having had the care of the education of the presumptive heir of the crown, was sufficient to incline *Sha Sephi* to give him the preference. But he was banished the court a few days before his sovereign's return from the army: and his disgrace was so sudden, that only a few hours were allowed him and his lady to obey the king's orders. He was in the decline of life, difficult of access, inflexible in his resolutions, unambitious, and asked no favours; and was rather of a morose, uncomplying temper, but otherwise very worthy, by the dignity of his sentiments, and his singular probity, of the preference *Sha Sephi* had given him to educate his successor. His banishment was occasioned by some imprudent discourses, rashly held, and more unadvisedly related.

In

* The Dauphin. † M. de Chatillon.

In the mean time there were different reports every day about the choice of a person for the embassy to *China*; but at length the *Sophi* put the public out of all doubt by nominating the * *Moullah Baubec Kan*, who was at this juncture ambassador at the court of † *Peking*. *Sba Sephi*'s love of œconomy was as powerful a motive to the nomination of this *Moullah*, as the earnest solicitations of his friends, who were too wise to let slip so fine an occasion of empowering him to make a most ample fortune.

At the same time that *Mirza* was banished, *Azouf*, who had been governor to the prince of *Jesseing*'s son, shared the same fate. And this was the more surprizing, as he was nearly related to *Taxis* and *Neamed*, both of them ministers in great favour, who had introduced him to court, and till then kept him in. His conduct had rendered him so little beloved, that hardly anybody regretted his disgrace.

Several courtiers, amongst whom there were some the *Sophi* had treated with distinction, lost the favour of their prince, for having taken the liberty to disapprove his intention of restoring the young *Sevagi*, and consequently the two princes his cousins, the sons of *Soliman*, to all the honours, rights and privileges that *Sba Abbas the Great* had solemnly granted to their fathers, of which, after his death, they were authentically de-

K 5

prived,

* The Bishop of *Rheims*. † *Madrid*.

prived, at least with respect to their posterity. These princes had this injustice done them, chiefly at the request of **Mirza Haddi*, and at the instigation of his mother *Roxana*, their sister, a violent woman, who perceiv'd not that she dishonoured herself, by thus prosecuting her revenge on her brothers. The most odious part this princess acted in the affair, was her making her own son the first promoter of her revenge, at the very time he was engaged in a party of pleasure at *Sevagi's* his father's seat.

The motive that urged the *Sopbi* to revive the decrees of *Sha Abbas the Great*, was the marriage of the young prince *Sevagi* with † *Anais*, a niece of prince *Jesseing's*, the solemnization of which they desired might be preceded by this act of the royal authority. It was natural enough for *Sha Sepbi* to give distinguishing marks of his friendship to a princess who was related to him, and to do all that could be expected from the sovereign power in favour of her issue. But the major part of the nobility, jealous of transmitting their rights and quality unblemished to their posterity, seemed desirous of opposing it; and this affair caused great agitation at court. The most prudent part were silent, but those who had less circumspection could not forbear talking, and were punished with banishment. But notwithstanding these proofs of the *Sopbi's* severity, and whatever favourable inclinations

* The Duke of *Bourbon*. † Princess of *Modena*.

inclinations he had for *Sevagi*, his design could not but meet with great difficulties, nor his supreme power prevent protests being made, and other acts register'd against it.

Anais, young, pretty, and of the blood royal by her mother's side, was a match capable of flattering the inclination and ambition of *Sevagi*. She was very near being married to **Mirgi Mola*. Her mother †*Scherazade* conducted matters so artfully, that she got the better of *Zepbis*, § *Fulnia's* mother, and they were just bringing things to a conclusion, when the latter set some new springs in motion, and defeated the hopes of *Scharazade*. The court was then at a palace a day's journey from *Ispahan*, and *Scherazade* enjoyed all the satisfaction that a mother, certain of a great match for her daughter, can feel; she mistrusted nothing, and it was with the utmost surprize she learnt one evening that she must give up all hopes of prince *Mirgi Mola*. At first she could not believe it, but desirous of certainty she set out directly for *Ispahan*, and went to the palace of *Jesseing*, where she had this melancholy news confirmed. Her grief was violent on this occasion, but it did not make her forget the marriage was not yet solemnized, and, therefore, there was room for hopes: she did all that an affair so advantageous, in every respect, merited, but had
the

* The Duke of *Chartres*. † The Dutchess of *Modena*. § The Princess Dowager of *Conti*.

the mortification to see her design disappointed. Prince *Sevagi*'s alliance was some comfort to her, if a difference in quality and riches can afford an ambitious mind any consolation.

At the same time * *Zensea*, a *Persian* officer, who was disgraced some months before, in a most infamous manner, for having made a dishonourable capitulation in a fortress he had the command of, which it was supposed he need not have surrendered, justify'd himself, and was restored to his former rank: an excellent example of the justice, and still more of the goodness and moderation of *Sba Sephi*. A less merciful government would have acted very differently; and immediately taken away the life of the officer, who in this case would have deserved the more to be pitied under his misfortune, as the bringing him to his trial too precipitately would have deprived him of the means of repairing his honour and reputation.

The preparations for the marriage of the prince of *Persia* did not hinder the *Sophi* from giving a particular attention to the means of carrying on the war vigorously: new levies were made, and a great number of forces sent into *Feldrans*, where a report spread that the *Persians* would open the campaign betimes with the siege of an important place. People spoke positively of an approaching grand promotion of general officers;

ficers; in short, dispositions were making to act offensively with great vigour the following year, notwithstanding the treaties of accommodation that were on the anvil, and the sincere inclination the *Sopbi* professed to contribute to the repose of *Asia*. The queen of *Golconda*, the emperor of *Japan*, and their allies, neglected nothing on their side to render their arms victorious; they depended on receiving considerable assistance from *Russia* in the spring, and flattered themselves with engaging several princes to enter into alliance with them, by their negotiations during the winter, and even with overcoming the unwillingness the * *Jalekeldarians* discovered of entering into a war, or to declare against *Sba Baskan*, with whom their †king, as prince of the empire of *Mogol*, concluded an alliance some months since by the treaty of *Amadabet*, in conjunction with the king of *Zagathay*, the *Raja* of § *Brampour*, and some other powers.

Such was the situation of public affairs; when *Remana*, the only sister to the queen of *Golconda*, who was married a year before to prince || *Salcher*, died in the capital of that part of *Feldrans*, belonging to the house of *Delly*, of which she was governess. This princess was extremely regretted; she was twenty six years of age; her goodness, humanity, delightful temper and beauty, which
several

* The *Sawedes*. † The King of *Sweden* is Prince of *Hesse*. § The *Electer Palatine*. || *Charles*.

several reckoned beyond her sister's, made her adored by the people, and rendered her loss the more sensible. A bad labour, which produced a dead child, threw her into a languishing illness, that lasted two months, which all the art of the most eminent physicians could not cure. The death of this princess gave the queen of *Golconda* an advantage, by annulling the clause of her contract of marriage with * *Narsic*, which stipulated, that in case she had no issue male, and on the contrary that if *Remana* had, the latter should be solely entitled to the succession of the hereditary possessions of the house of *Delly*, to the exclusion of the daughters of † *Nagar*. Tho' the queen of *Golconda* had a prince, and might expect more, yet there would always have been room to make her uneasy as to futurity, if *Remana* had left any sons behind her, whereas her dying without issue banished all kind of inquietude; a motive proper enough to console her for the loss of her sister.

An accident that happened soon after *Remana*'s decease, afforded ample matter of speculation to the politicians. After the *Persian* troops were gone into quarters, § *Scadeck*, instead of returning to *Ispahan*, set out from the army, in company with his brother and a numerous retinue. He went directly to *Sba Baskan*, and proceeded thence on his journey by

* The Grand Duke of *Tuscany*. † The Queen of *Hungary*. § Marshal *Belleisle*.

by the frontiers of *Cabul*, in order, as it was reported, to attend the king of *Zagathay*, and concert with him the operations of the ensuing campaign. Perhaps his orders were to remove the fears of this uneasy and discontented prince, who complain'd loudly of the *Persians* for not attacking the *Golcondese* on their repassing the *Indus*, or at least for not pursuing them in their retreat towards * *Jenupar*; a double fault, which, he said, had been of infinite disservice to the common cause, since it had forced him to abandon his conquests, and retire with precipitation before an enemy, who might have been destroy'd, or suffer severely between two fires, if the *Persians* had either fought or closely pursued them. The war that was on foot having been *Scadeck's* favourite project, it concerned him greatly that *Persia* should carry it on with honour, and as he was well known and esteemed by the king of *Zagathay*, it was very evident his journey was undertaken with no other view, but to confer with this prince. *Scadeck*, whose rout was no secret, being arrived at the frontiers of *Cabul*, was seized as a *Persian* general with all his retinue, for want of passports, and under pretence of the war that was declared by *Ska Sephi* against *Chanavas Kan*, emperor of *Japan*, and *Raja* of *Cabul*. Some looked upon this affair as likely to be attended with great consequences; and others as a
strata-

* *Bohemia*.

stratagem. And indeed it seem'd contrary to good sense, that *Scadeck*, in order to go to * *Attock*, should chuse the road of *Cabul*, before the common road, and in this case neglect furnishing himself with passports, at least unless he had conceived a premeditated design to be arrested, that by his confinement, *Persia*, who perhaps mistrusted, or grew tir'd of the king of *Zagathay*, might have a plausible pretence of coming to a rupture with him, or of justifying herself, if the future operations were not to this prince's mind, supposing he continued firm in the alliance. But the precipitate departure of this monarch from his capital to his army, which he left but a few days before, precisely at the time that *Scadeck* was upon the road, and, as said, coming to his court, gave room to think that *Gion Kan* would avoid coming to any conference, and of course renounce the treaty of † *Amadabat*. Others suspected that *Scadeck* only took the road of the frontiers of *Cabul*, to examine in person, if it were not practicable for the *Persian* army, which was on the side of § *Guzarate* and *Multan*, to penetrate into this principality, by conducting it along mountains, difficult of approach indeed, but not impassable. There was the more foundation for this suspicion, as these mountains were thought a sufficient defence of themselves, and therefore neither guarded nor fortified, and *Scadeck* endeavoured

* *Berlin*. † *Francfort*. § *Mentz* and *Cologne*.

voured to pass them with all his retinue, amongst which it was said, there were several skilful officers and engineers, capable of taking a plan of the ground. Some carry'd their conjectures further, and conceived that the seizing of *Scadeck* in the country of *Cabul* was only a feint; that by being carried over to *Japan*, as it was not doubted he would, he might have an easy means of entering into negotiations with that emperor, in order to bring about a general, or, at least, a separate peace.

In the mean time a report was spread that *Sha Sephi* would soon grant the * *Gaures* the free and publick exercise of their religion, thro' his dominions. This project, which some people look'd on as a master-stroke of policy, met with great contradiction; many doubted it, others judg'd the execution of it impracticable, as it seem'd to bid defiance to the clergy, or Mahometan priesthood, a body of men always ready to discover an outrageous zeal, and who, by their authority over the minds of a bigotted and ignorant people, would overturn the state, rather than suffer what they call an *innovation* in religion.

If one may risque giving his opinion as to the design ascribed to sovereigns, this scheme seems neither imaginary, nor impossible to be executed.

How-

* The Protestants in France.

However extensive or populous the *Per-*
sian empire may be, the great losses it has
 sustained, during a war of three years and a
 half, have greatly lessened the number of
 people. The late levies were not made with-
 out great difficulty; since, instead of youths,
 they were obliged to press marry'd men.
 The troops so levy'd in the different pro-
 vinces were, for the most part, undersized
 boys, and so weak that many died before
 they could reach their places of rendezvous.
 The old regiments were worn out, and re-
 tained nothing but the name. Scarce was
 there in each one hundred men, who had
 seen the service, or were fit to train the new
 recruits, or to inspire them with what is
 called a *martial ardour*. There was all ima-
 ginable appearance that the war would be
 long and bloody. The new militia were
 not to be depended on, till they had passed
 three years in garrison. It was yet necessary
 to complete the regiments, as well as to re-
 place the draughts made each year from the
 garrisons, for the service of the campaign.
 In the mean time the peasants, who were the
 nursery of the army, fail'd. The impossi-
 bility of paying the taxes, and a universal
 want, had for late years forced the greatest
 part of them to abandon their dwellings, and
 the cultivation of their grounds, and even
 to leave their country, which could not but
 occasion a sensible decrease in the *Sophi's* re-
 venues. This deficiency again affected the

war : It was of the last importance to put a speedy remedy to these evils. The most effectual way, without dispute, to do this, was to procure a new stock of people, who might become a support to the state, both by furnishing men and money. The choice of this new stock of people was no indifferent matter. It was natural to prefer those who, by their birth or origin, were united to the state, and consequently possessed of that patriotism which seems born with all men, or that secret affection which children have for the native country of their parents. The * *Gaures* in general had all these qualifications. The more industrious and skilful in commerce they had grown, by their abode in foreign countries, the richer they were, and the fitter for contributing to make the state flourish ; setting aside religious motives, the persecution raised against them had done an infinite prejudice to *Persia*. The country had been depopulated by it ; manufactures had suffer'd ; the revenues of the crown were diminished, while strangers were enriched. Important considerations for a prince ! It is no wonder if they struck *Sba Sephi*, and inclined him to revoke so unjust a decree. Every wise prince, who loves truth, and consults the good of his people, and state, will do the same.

Some other motives might have determined the *Sophi* to issue a new edict in favour

* *French Protestants.*

vour of the *Gaures*. There was a vast number of those people dispersed into different kingdoms, especially in those with which *Persia* was at war. Their confidence in their sovereign, the love of their country, the temperature of the climate, and the opportunities of making their fortune, might incline the bulk of them to return; a loss that could not but greatly weaken the powers from whom they withdrew.

It was probable the court had not given over all thoughts of encouraging a revolution in * *Japan*: Favourable conjectures might contribute to revive it. It was therefore good policy to gain over the *Gaures*, who are numerous in that empire, and so dispose them before-hand, as not to oppose the enterprize.

It seemed also likely that the † *Ceylanese* would at last openly declare for the queen of *Golconda*. The *Gaures* formed the most considerable part of their subjects; the resentment those people had of the persecution they had felt in *Persia*, gave them a greater aversion for the *Persian* name than the natives themselves. It was a matter of consequence to erase those ill impressions, and inspire others more favourable, which might incline those people to wish, or perhaps to facilitate, the conquest of *Ceylan* for their countrymen, if war were once declared between the *Sophi* and the *Ceylanese*.

There

* *England*. † *The Dutch*.

There remained still in the heart of *Persia* a great number of * *Gaurese* families, who privately followed their religion, tho' not without secret murmurs at the restraint. The enemies of *Persia* were not ignorant of this; and it was to be apprehended they might under-hand engage this sect, which wanted not men of credit, to raise a rebellion, or civil war, which, supported by foreign assistance, might prove fatal to the kingdom. It seemed prudent, therefore, to prevent all these misfortunes, by interesting those subjects in honour and preservation of their country: the only way to do this was to take them by the passion dearest to all men, their religious belief, and the freedom of professing it. So politick a conduct could not fail of success, because the *Gaures* would think themselves happy to be put on an equality with their fellow-subjects, whom they would strive to emulate, both in zeal and fidelity.

As to the opposition of the priest-hood, if it be coolly examined, it will be found not unsurmountable. The right of judging lies in the chief men, in whose power it is to silence those who might influence the people. These master-keys tune the lesser strings, but all men know that these persons are not free from ambition or self-interest, or the desire of making a figure, and gaining credit at court: consequently the court has it ever
in

* *Protestant.*

in its power to make these great springs of action move as it pleases, and accordingly give motion to the subordinate wheels.

There is in *Persia* another set of men, more dangerous, as they are seemingly independent, and have apparently nothing to lose, I mean the * *Faquirs*: but a very slender attention to their uselessness, to their institution, and its different changes; to their self-interest, and the artifices they employ to serve it; their dread of a strict inquiry into their real possessions, and the advantages of prohibiting them all commerce with the world; a settled resolution to make them immediately dependent on the secular clergy, and under rigorous penalties to forbid their admitting persons above a certain age, might furnish sufficient means to keep them in awe, and prevent their opposition.

Some will perhaps think we have been too tedious on this project, as it is founded only on common report. Yet, if we consider the great importance of the scheme, our readers will perhaps be pleased to see the motives which recommended it to the court of *Persia*, as well as the means which seemed to us most probable to carry it into execution.

* The *Clergy*, or *Monks*, who pretend to depend immediately on the *Pope*, and not on the jurisdiction of the *Bishops of France*.

F I N I S.



T H E K E Y.

*A**Bdalla Kan*, Elector
of Cologne

Abdul, M. Pelletier

Akabar, M. de Torcy

Ali Homajou, late D. of Or-
leans, Regent

Ali Kali Kan, P. Sultzbach

Amadabat, Frankfort

Anais, Dutcheſs de Pen-
thievre

Armenians, Jews

Aracam, Tuscany

Aſia, Europe

Aſt Kan, Elector Palatine

Attock, Brandenburg

Ava, Tortona

Azer, Marſhal Maillebois
B.

Bengall, Milanefe

Bacar, Sileſia

Bakir, C. Kevenhuller

Balck, Denmark

Balaguette, Tranſilvania

Baubec Kan, Bp of Rennes

Bedreddin, D. Montemar

Boulaki, D. of Berwick

Brampour, Palatine Elect.

Buckor, Triers, Electorate
C.

Cha (vide *Sha*)

Cabul, Hanover

Ceylan, Holland

Ceylaneſe, Dutch

Calaat, Marſhal's Baton

Chekour, Staniflaus

China, Spain

Cochinchina, Naples

Corea, Portugal

Cofrou, M. Chauvelin
D

Dabur, Landgrave

Daracha, M.D'Argenſon
the Father

Delli, Auſtria

Dellians, Auſtrians

Dogbdon, Dutcheſs of
Laurangais

Doltabat, Philipsburgh
E

Emni, Maine

Eveneg, Eugene

Euxica, Mad. de Flama-
court

F.

Fatme, Madam de Bour-
bon Conde

Fazel, M. Pelletier, Sen.

Feldrans, F,l,a,n,d,e,r,s

Ferizade, Dfs of Bourbon

Fulnia, Dfs of Chartres

G.

Ganges, the Po

Gebanabad, Vienna.

Gelaleddin, Philip V.

Gemchid, Marſhal Villars

Giaſer, D. de Vermandois

Gions

The K E Y.

Gion Kan, King of Prussia
Golconda, Hungary
Guzarate, Mentz Electorat

H

Haffe Classe, Hesse Cassel
Haider, Earl of Stair
Hafdy, Barjac, first Valet
to C. Fleury
Hassin, C. de St. Florentin
Hussein, M. de Lage

I.

Iaber, Duke Aremborg
Ialekeldar, Sweden
Japan, England
Jenupar, Bohemia
Jenupar, T. Prague
Jesova, Savoie
Jessing, present D. of
Orleans
Ibben, M. Amelot
Ibbi, Mar. D. de Noailles
Ibrahim, M. D'Arguesseau
Ilement, Moselle
Indus, Rhine
Ismael Beg, Card. Fleury
Ispahan, Paris

K.

Kalife Sultan, C. Saxe
Kalmoucs, Swiss Cantons
Kaluced, Pr. Waldeck
Kasamir, M. de Balin-
court
Korsula, K. of Sardinia
Kigon, Son to Marshal
Coigny
Koturi, V,i,c,t,o,r, K. of
ditto
Kussala, Czasslaw
Korsula, K,a,r,o,l,u,s

L.

Labor, Saxony Electorat

M.

Mahamet Nessim, Chevalier
Broglie
Mahmoud, late K. of Poland
Mahmouth, Grand Signior
Miram, C. de Clermont
Mirgi Mola, D of Chartres
Mir Kassem, D. of Cum-
berland
Mir Kassem Kan, C. D'Of-
tein, Elector of Mentz
Mirza, D. of Chatillon
Mirza Haddi, D. Bourbon
Mir Tekebar, D. of Lau-
rangais
Mogol Empire, Germany
Mogolians, Germans, or
Imperialists
Mohadi, K. of Denmark
Morat Backe, Pr. of Conti
Multan, Cologne
Muzaim, Card. Tencin

N.

Nabal Akel Kan, late El.
of Mentz
Nagar, Q. of Hungary
Narsic, (Pr. of Aracam)
Great D of Tuscany
Necbal, Sardinia
Negeddin, Don Philip
Neges Couli Beg, Count
Lewenhaupt
Neamed, C. D'Argenson

O.

Olabi, Don Carlos
Omrabs, Princes of the
empire

Onu-

The K E Y.

Onumar, C. Plelo
Orcan, C. de Charolois
Orixa, Guastalla
Ofiria, Dutcheſs of Cha-
 teaux Roux

P.

Peking, Madrid
Persia, France
Phadek, Czar Peter the
 Great.
Poladol, L,e,o,p,o,l,d
Prince of Persia, Dauphin

R.

Remana, Mary Anne, late
 wife to Pr. Charles
Retima, Marchioneſs of
 M—e

Rezsa, Count Thoring
Rbedi, M. Orry
Rica, C. de Maurepas
Roxana, Dutcheſs Dow-
 ager of Maine

Rutor Sha, D. Harcourt
 S.

Sabeb, Mademoſ. de Sens
Salcher, C,h,a,r,l,e,s
Sambal, Moravia

Scherezade, Dutcheſs of
 Modena

Schiras, Cambray
Secandra, Lintz
Segeddin, C. de Gages

Seif, M. Coigny
Scipbe, J,o,f,e,p,h
Segestran, Weiſphalia

Selatibeb, E,l,i,f,a,b,e,t,h
Seppar I. Ferdinand I.

Sevagi, C. de Tholou e
Sevagi, young, D. de Pen-
 thuevre

Sha Abbas I. the Great,
 Lewis XIV.

Sha Sepbi, Lewis XV.

Sha Reſſine Frola, Charles
 VI. emperor

Sha Baſkan, Cha. VII. Em.

Sha Aſkeri, K. of Portugal

Sigoken, Ct. Konigſegg

Selim Kar, K. of Poland

Sepbi Mirza, Dauphin, el-
 deſt Son to Lewis XIV.

Sopbi, K. of France

Soulaki, M. de Minas

Sydameck, M. de Chetardie

Sujab, Marſh. d'Asfelt

Sultana Q. Q. of France
 T.

Tachmene, M. D'Antin

Tatta, Lorraine.

Taxis, Marq. d'Argenſon

Tunquin, Venice

V.

Viſapour, Bavaria

Viſapour City, Munich

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